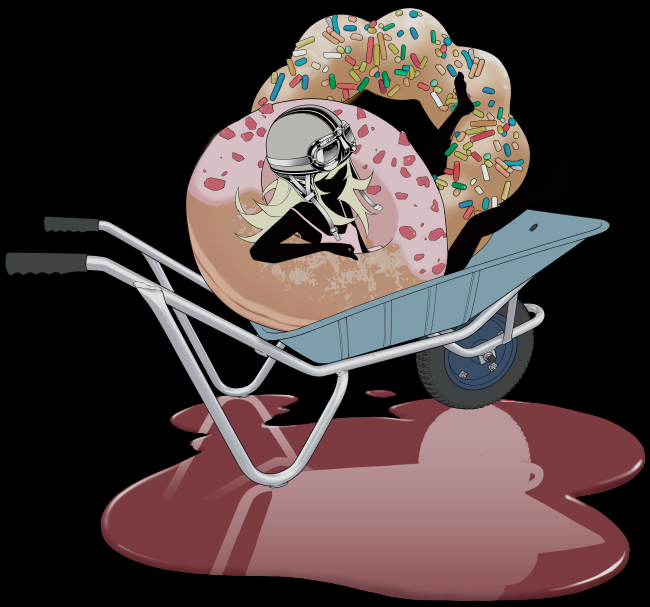
BAKEMONOGATARI
14
OH!GREAT
ORIGINAL STORY:
NISIOISIN
ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN



BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

14

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

MAIN CHARACTERS

Koyomi Araragi

A boy who became Kiss-Shot's thrall after saving her. He now fights to become human again and to put a stop to Kiss-Shot.

Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's friend who goes to the same school as him, and an honor student that few honors could sufficiently describe. She's dedicated to supporting Koyomi without any regard for her own safety.

Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade

A vampire powerful enough to be called the "king of aberrations" who Koyomi saved from near-certain death. Thanks to Koyomi, she has now returned to her original form.

Seishiro Shishirui

Kiss-Shot's first thrall. He took his own life.

Mèmè Oshino

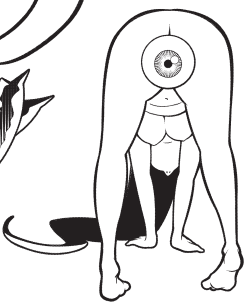
A self-described expert on aberrations who appeared in front of Koyomi one day.

During spring break, Koyomi Araragi saved the critically injured vampire Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade, becomes her thrall, and successfully returns her to full strength. However, he realizes that his actions were mistaken by human standards, and the conflict this creates for him ultimately makes him resolved to defeat Kiss-Shot. As part of his preparations for battle, he asks Hanekawa if he can fondle her breasts, only to grow embarrassed and disengage when she complies.

FULL
Chapter 0
Koyomi Vamp
BOOK DESIGN VEIA

FLAME WHEEL

SICKLE WEASEL

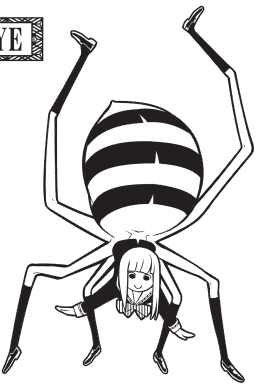


ROKURO-NECK

HOLE EYE

VAMPIRE

KARA-UMBRELLA GHOST



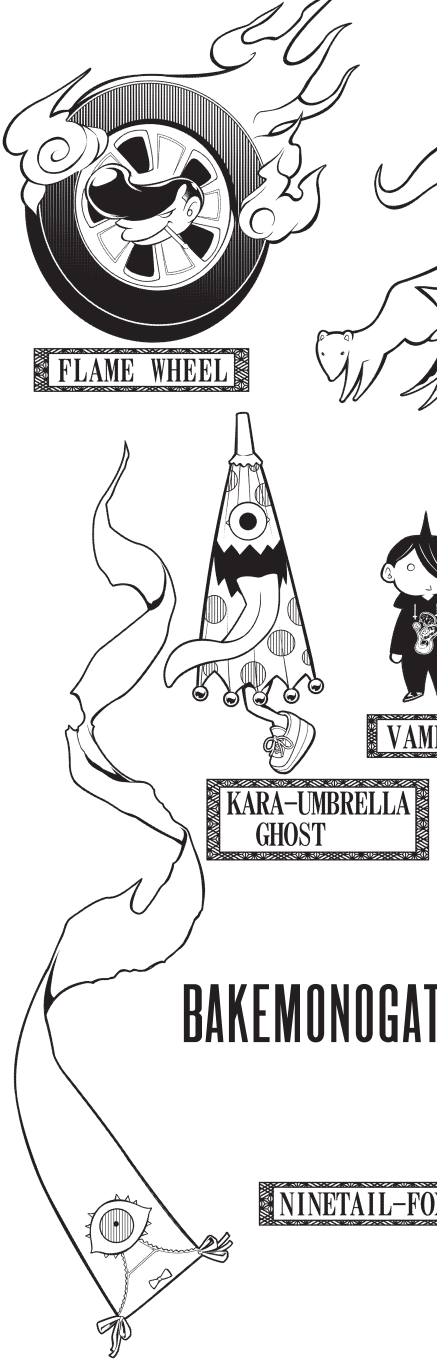
JORO SPIDER

ZASHIKI-WARASHI

BAKEMONOGATARI

GREY

NINETAIL-FOX

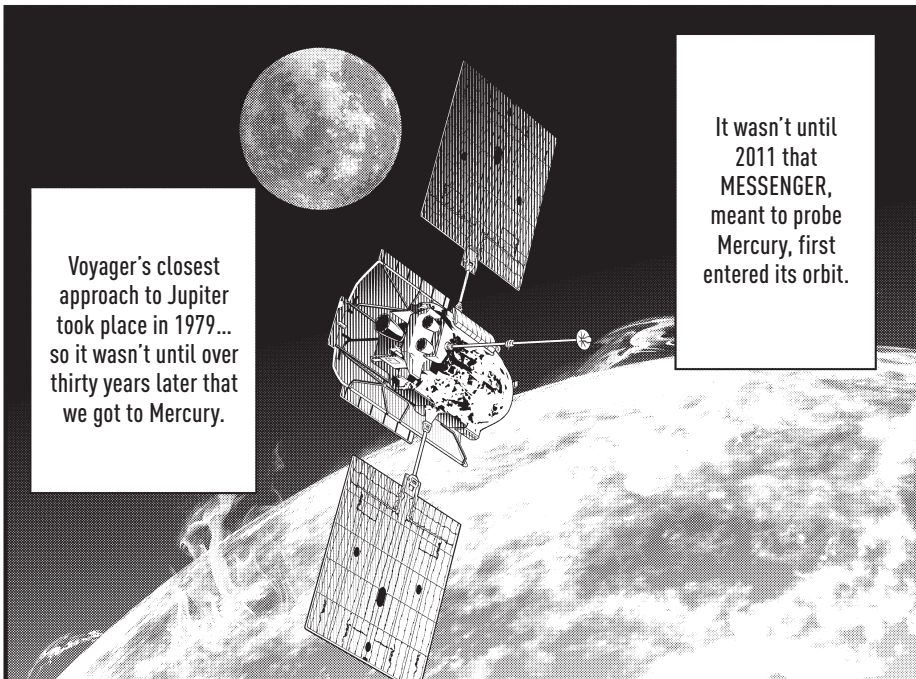


FLYING COTTON-CLOTH (12M)

RUB RUB
RUB RUB
RUB RUB
Whoa... They're not even remotely stiff.
Uh...um... This doesn't hurt at all, does it?
It's fine. In fact, it feels...
...good.
You know, in its own way... this isn't so bad.
What an angle...

I can even feel her collar-bone...
Araragi?
TWIIITCH
YES?!
I'M SORRY, MISS HANE-KAWA!
I know this is sudden, but I have a pop quiz for you.
What is the closest planet to Earth?
...
...?
Um... It's Venus—right? ...Or is it Mars?
Bzzt!
Apparently—it's Mercury.
It's Venus if you go by simple distance.
But due to the relationship between their orbital periods, Mercury is first.
Mercury
Venus
Earth
Mars
It's on Earth's side for longer.

Oh ...
That makes sense. I never thought of it that way.
It's the same with people, right? The person you spend the most time with is the person closest to you... right?
But even though Mercury is that close to us,
we've barely explored it at all.


Voyager's closest approach to Jupiter took place in 1979... so it wasn't until over thirty years later that we got to Mercury.
It wasn't until 2011 that MESSENGER, meant to probe Mercury, first entered its orbit.

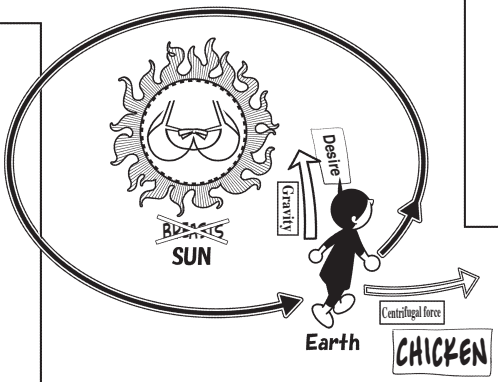
Maybe there's a really significant reason that you can't come into contact with them.

HUH ?!

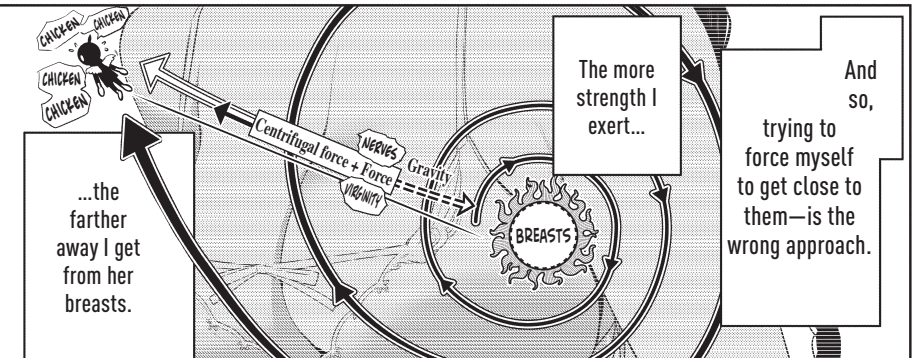
I guess maybe you could say...

It's kind of like your relationship to my breasts?

...and at the same time, the inertia created from being in orbit around her breasts consistently acts upon me to keep me away from them.



Her breasts draw me in with an irresistible force...

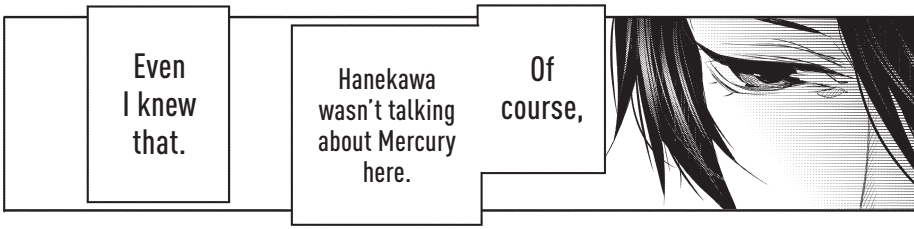


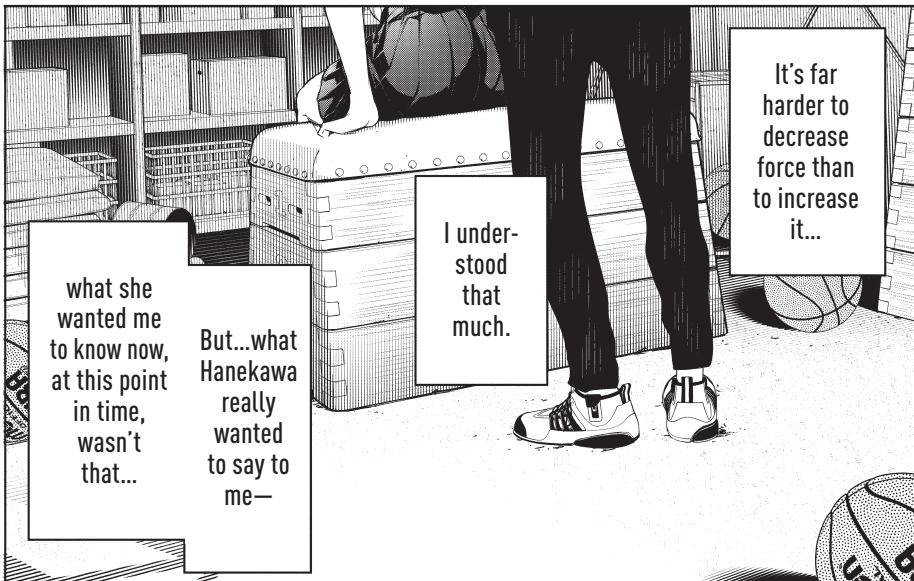
...the farther away I get from her breasts.

The more strength I exert...

And so, trying to force myself to get close to them—is the wrong approach.

That's why... getting to Mercury, whose orbit sits within Earth's own—is so very difficult.
It's not about adding force.
It's the opposite.
If anything, you have to cut down on it—
You have to decelerate.
...


Of course,
Hanekawa wasn't talking about Mercury here.
Even I knew that.

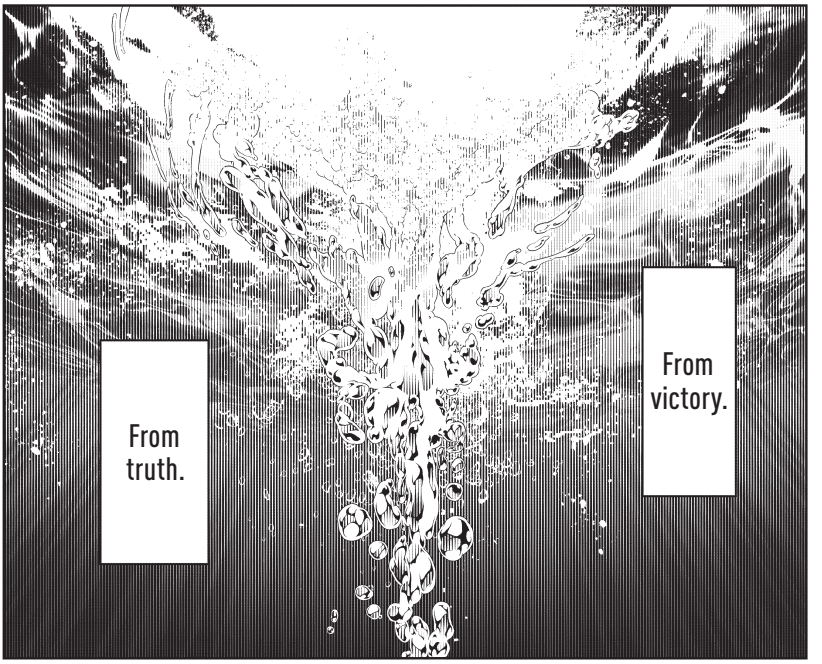

It's far harder to decrease force than to increase it...
I understood that much.
But...what Hanekawa really wanted to say to me—
what she wanted me to know now, at this point in time, wasn't that...

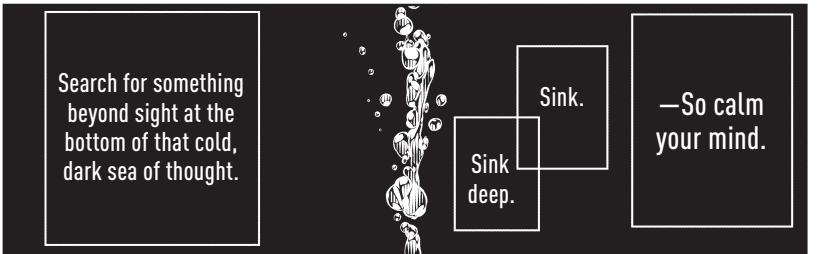
Or at least, I thought as much...
By the way, Araragi.
Have you intentionally been inching my shoulder straps outward all this time?
HUH ?!
OH, NO, I WOULD NEVER!
Araragi.
...So that's your approach ?
Falling ?
Or am I mistaken ?
BLUP
TUG
WH—
HANE-KAWA?!
My shoulder straps are in the way, right?
I'd hate it a lot more if you got them off without me noticing.

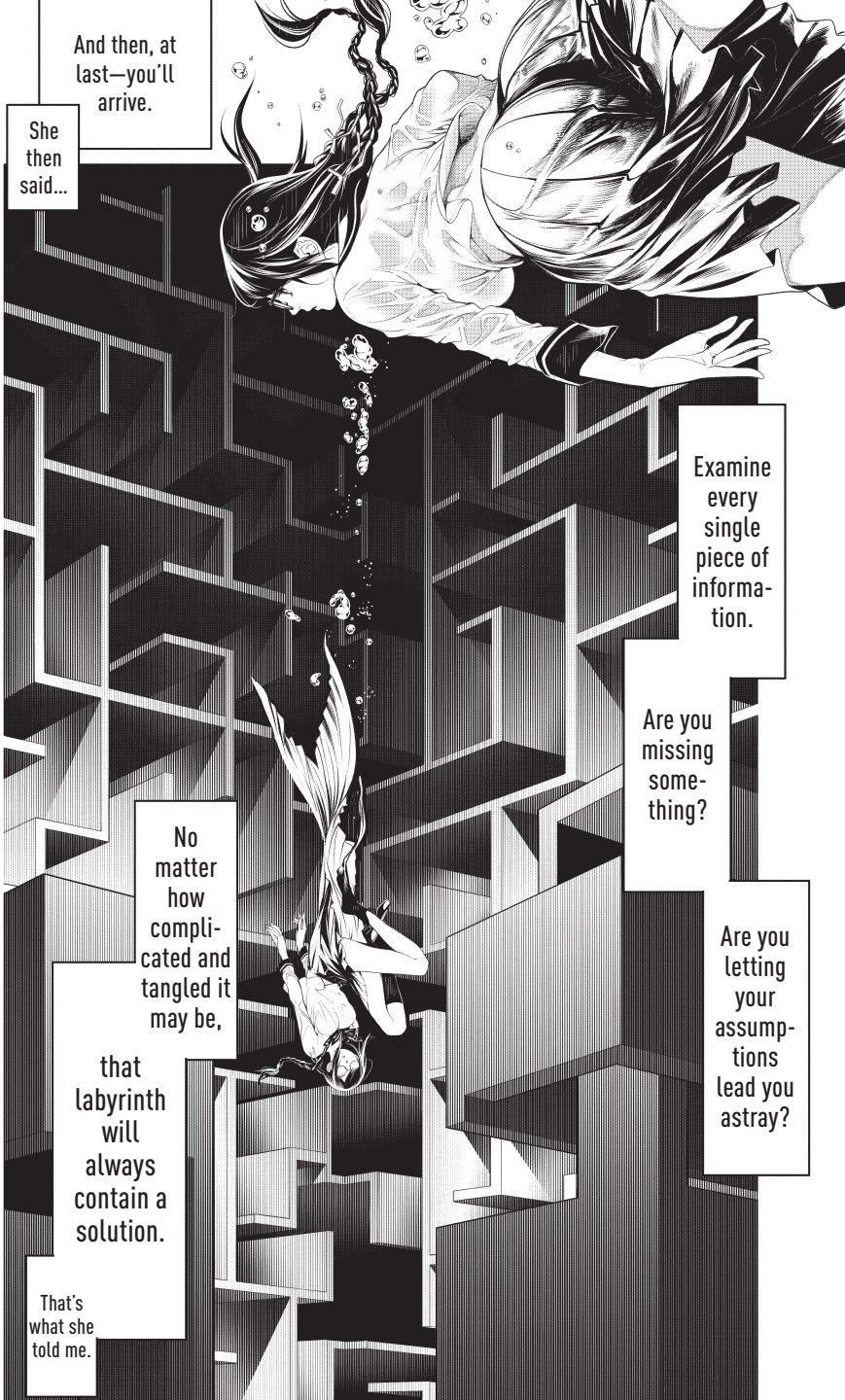
...this was Hanekawa making a prediction.
...
...I realized...
When I thought back to this moment much later...

The only way to get close is to fall.
The greater the strength, the farther you get away.
Right?
It's kind of funny that way.
About my future...
...with her.
...would end.
...of how the fight I'd soon have with Kiss-Shot...
It was also a terrifyingly prescient prediction...
KLTTR
KLTTR
KLTTR
KLTTR

The more excited you get— the further you stray.


From truth.
From victory.


Search for something beyond sight at the bottom of that cold, dark sea of thought.
Sink.
Sink deep.
—So calm your mind.


And then, at last—you'll arrive.
She then said...
Examine every single piece of information.
Are you missing something?
Are you letting your assumptions lead you astray?
No matter how complicated and tangled it may be,
that labyrinth will always contain a solution.
That's what she told me.

...there were some way for me to do that—
If...
That must be...
...how Hanekawa *lives*.
...
That...
...is how Hanekawa thinks.
No.
I could only imagine the joyous life I would lead.
I truly believe—that it would be all I ever need.
If I could sink down into the depths with Hanekawa.

...that's exactly why.

But...

It's why when I spend time with Hanekawa...

...I get scared.

Wouldn't it keep Hanekawa from ever being able to return from that darkness?

Would that not become a burden?

if I kept clinging to Hanekawa's unfathomable benevolence—

If I became dependent on her—

—I can't help but think that.

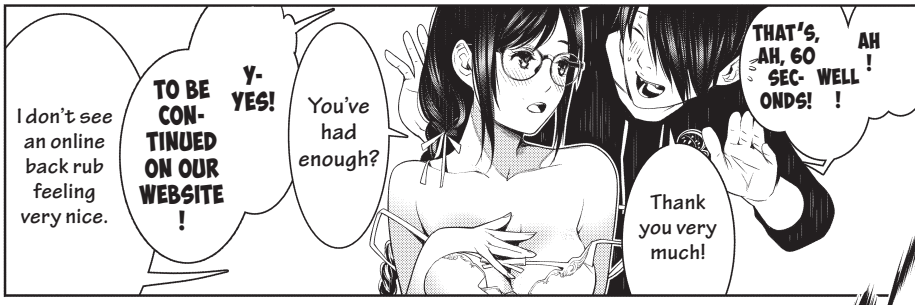
Well.

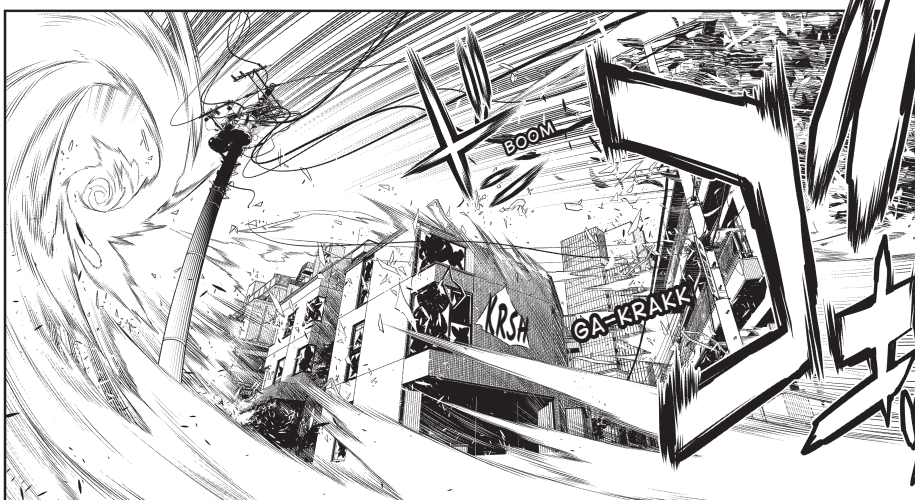
That said, I also messed up just now.

So, I'm in no place to be acting high and mighty.

I get the feeling we both got a little too excited.
Especially considering we're friends.
Hane-kawa...
Yeah. I should take this... slower.
One step at a time. ...Steadily.

FWOOSH


I don't see an online back rub feeling very nice.
TO BE CONTINUED ON OUR WEBSITE!
Y-YES!
You've had enough?
Thank you very much!
THAT'S, AH, 60 SECONDS!
AH!
WELL!


BOOM
KRSH
GA-KRAKK

Now that you've made a girl do this much for you, you wouldn't dare lose—
would you?
I will win!
I swear it to you, on your chest!
No, you don't need to do anything on my chest.

POP
FWOOSH
BOOM
GA-KRAKAKAK!

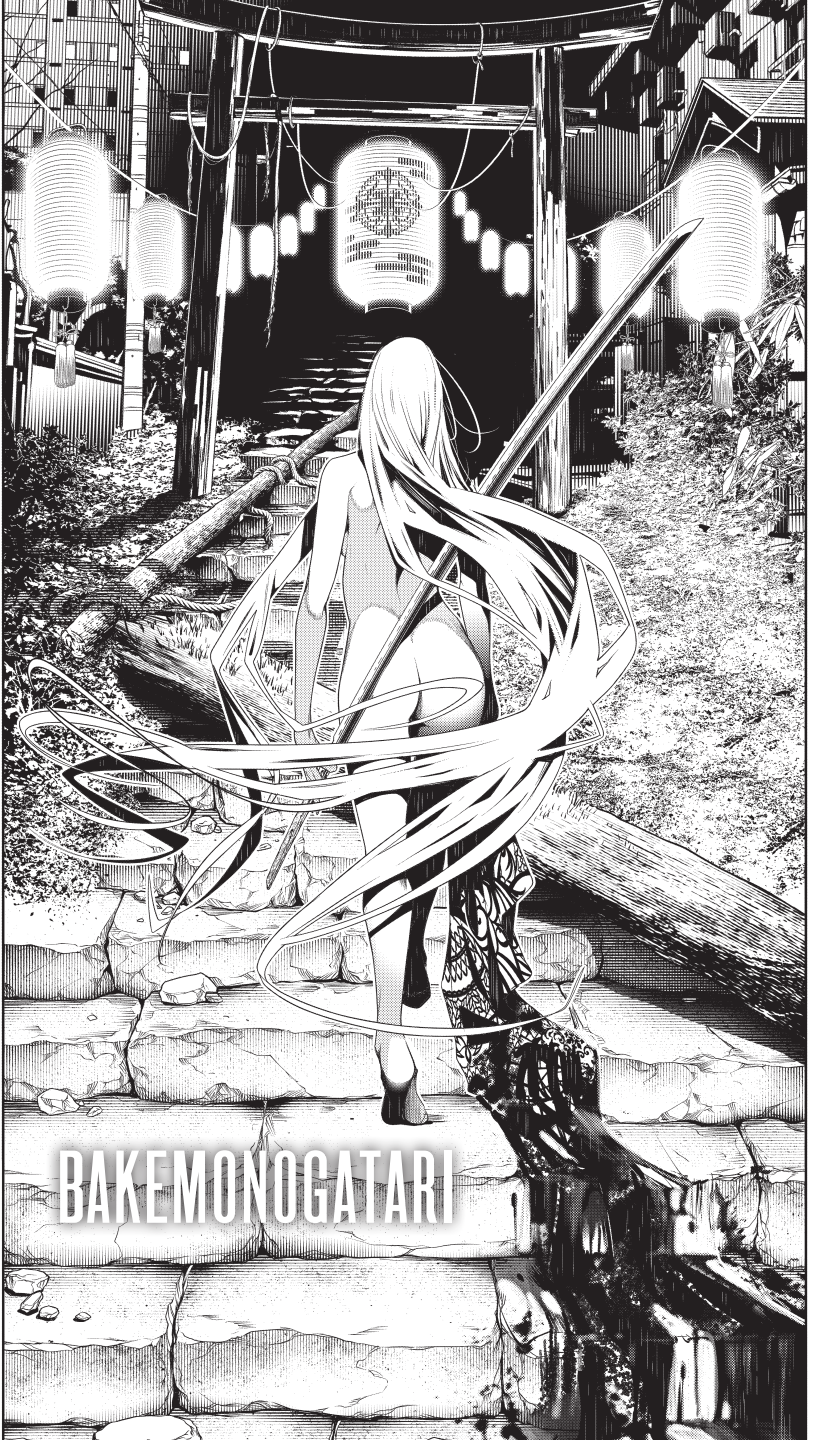
GRAKKL
GRRNG

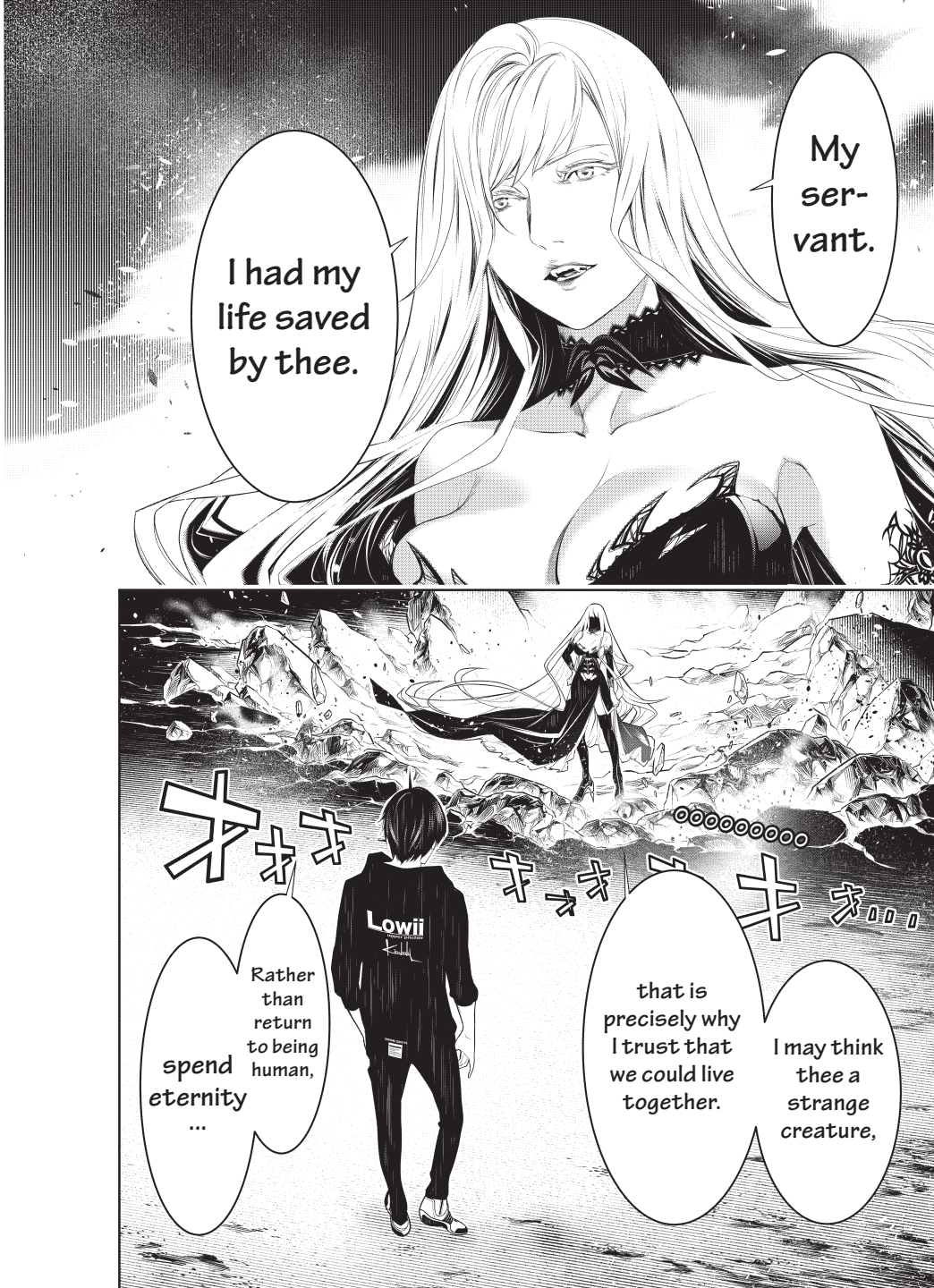
Don't you dare say a thing, Hanekawa.

But once.

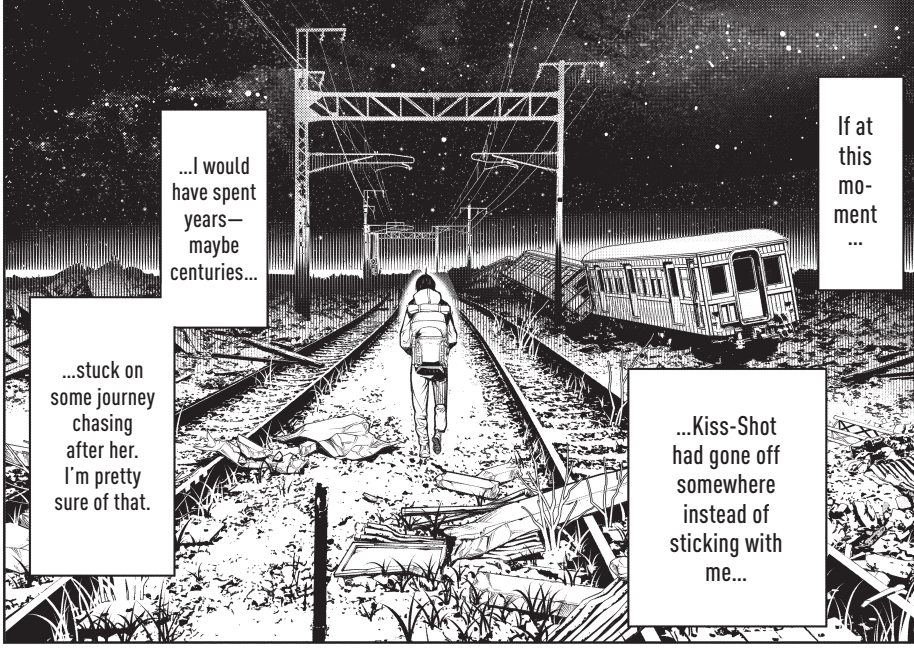
...Hey.

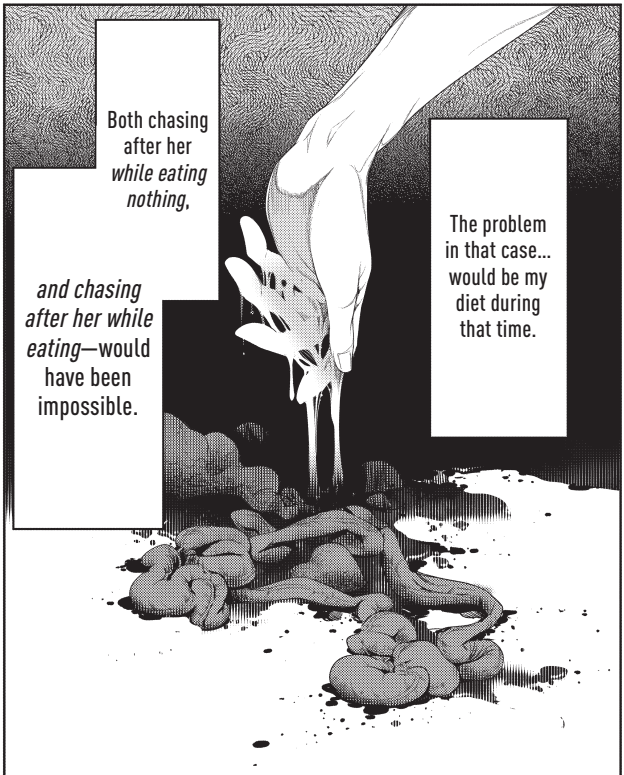
...but once.
I will apologize to thee...
My servant.
I came to understand thy feelings.
While I wished to sleep, I forced myself to think.
I believe— I acted thoughtlessly.
I believe— I had not paid thee the consideration due a former human.
Return to my side.

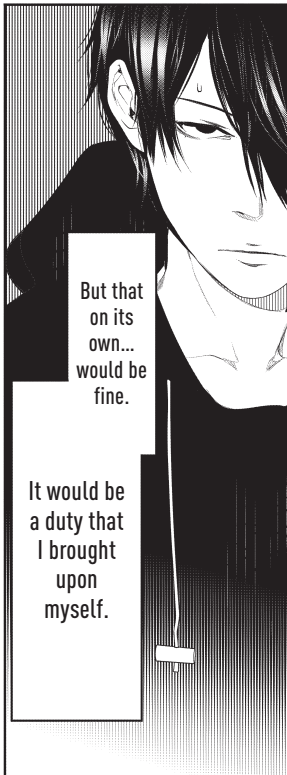

BAKEMONOGATARI


My servant.
I had my life saved by thee.
Lowii
I may think thee a strange creature,
that is precisely why I trust that we could live together.
Rather than return to being human,
spend eternity ...

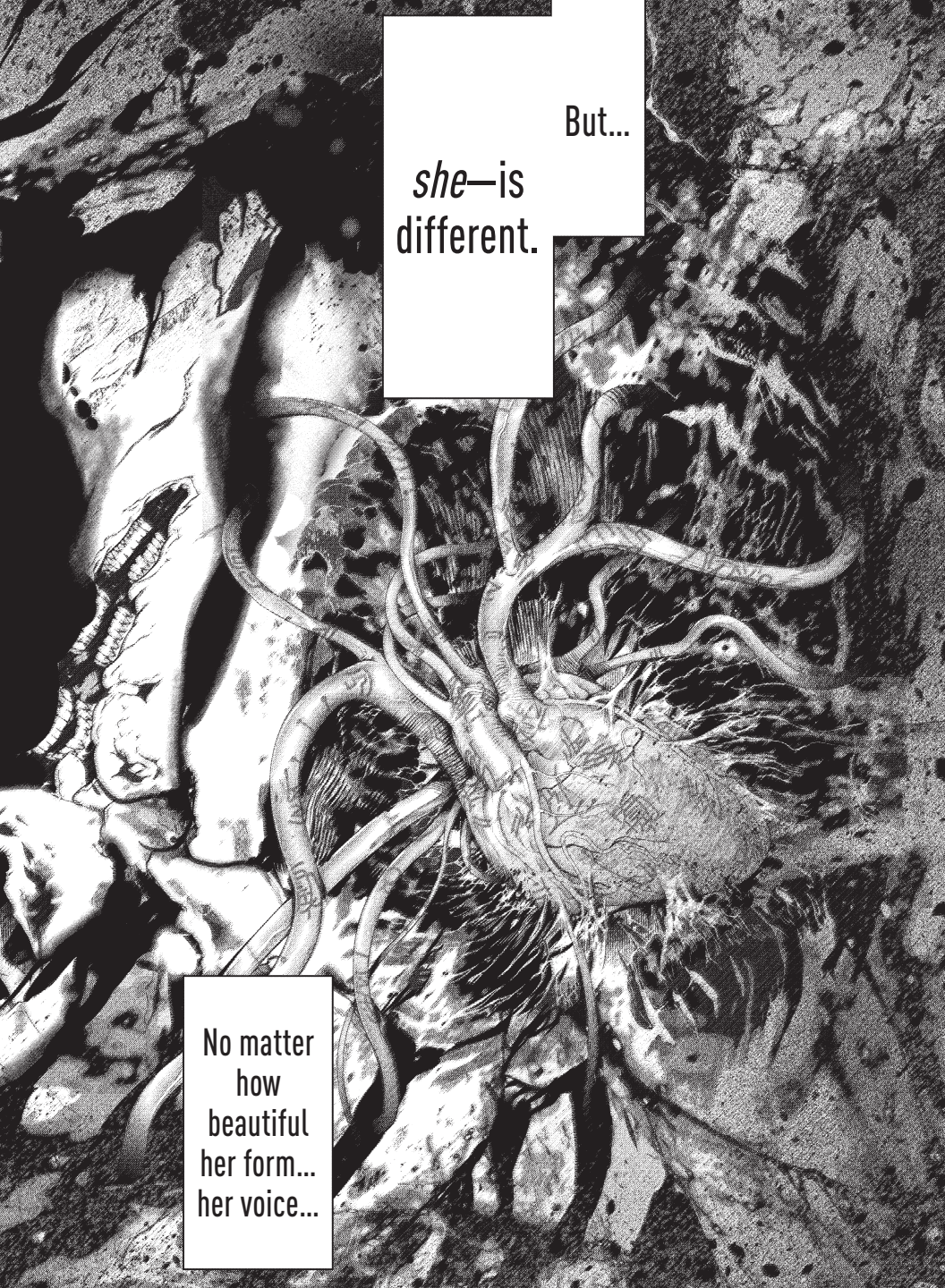
...living with me.
...
Kiss-Shot was...
...beau-tiful.
Her voice was ice-like— chilling and translucent.
And with that voice, she tempted me.
Kiss-Shot.
I'm glad you were the one to come meet me.
And I'm not being sarcastic or snide here.
Okay?


If at this mo-ment ...
...I would have spent years—maybe centuries...
...stuck on some journey chasing after her. I'm pretty sure of that.
...Kiss-Shot had gone off somewhere instead of sticking with me...

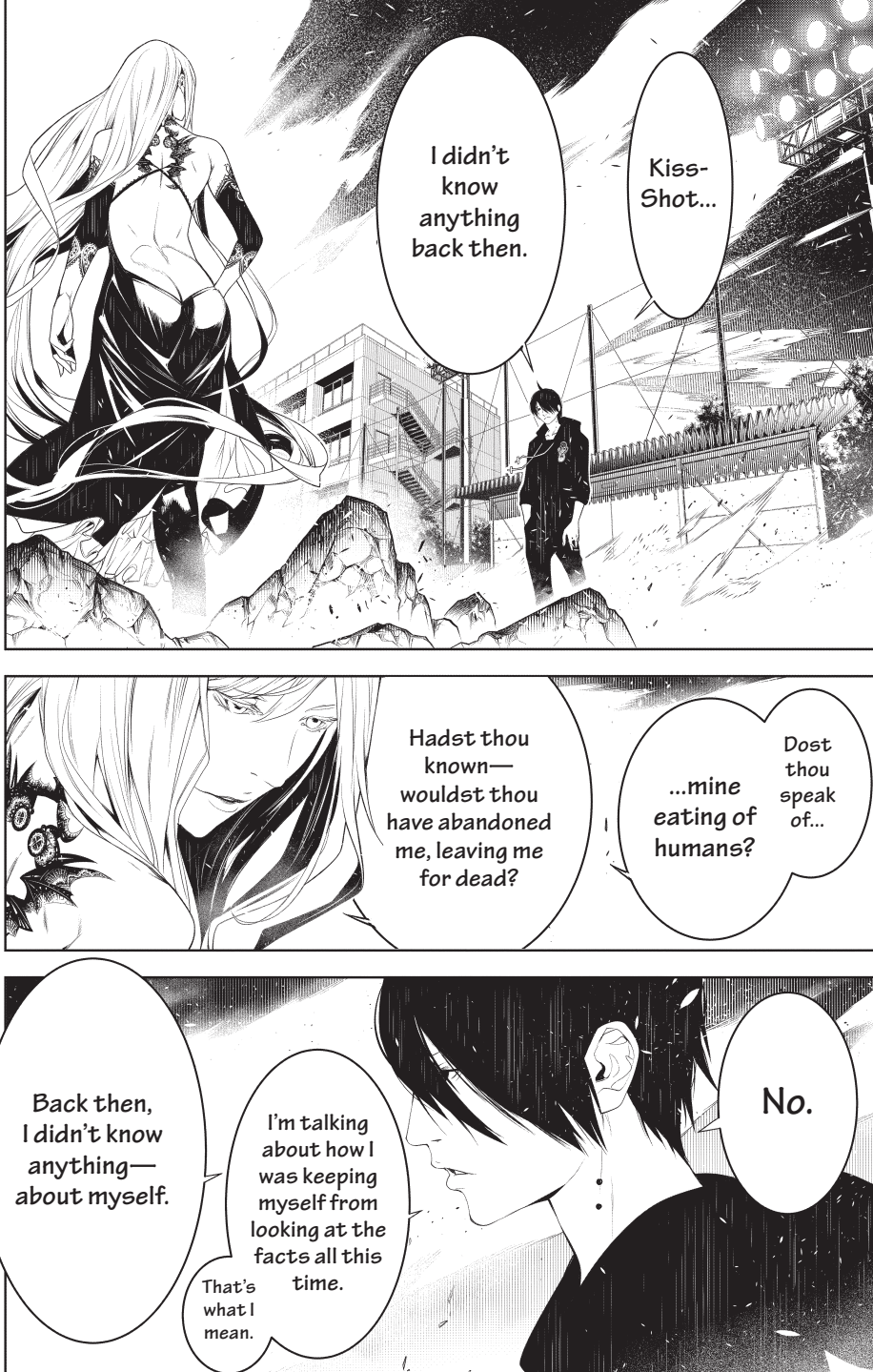

Both chasing after her *while eating nothing*,
and chasing after her while eating—would have been impossible.
The problem in that case... would be my diet during that time.


But that on its own... would be fine.
It would be a duty that I brought upon myself.

Young man.
You— will come to understand.
Now I see what Dramaturgy meant.
Nguyen.
His lover ...
I bet she was a kind vampire.
The only way she could survive was to eat the very villagers she loved.
Thank you for saving me.
It was a living hell more painful than any form of torture.


But...
she—is different.
No matter how beautiful her form... her voice...

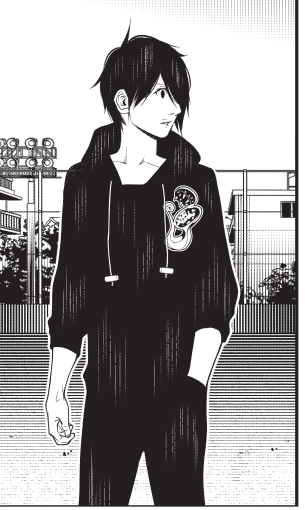
Someone only capable of seeing humans as nothing more than food.
A demon.
She's nothing but a monster on the inside.


Kiss-Shot...
I didn't know anything back then.
Dost thou speak of...
...mine eating of humans?
Hadst thou known— wouldst thou have abandoned me, leaving me for dead?
No.
I'm talking about how I was keeping myself from looking at the facts all this time.
That's what I mean.
Back then, I didn't know anything— about myself.

That I saved a vampire meant —
I'd already come to terms with the fact that someone was going to get eaten.
But I'd run away from facing that fact...
...until I saw one of those sacrifices in the flesh.
While my actions may have been beautiful,
I was neither beautiful nor right.
Hah.

Those were the words...
...I wished to hear from thee.
I thought thou might speakest so.

ZAKK
I thought thee to be such a fellow.
I would have left this country already had I not.
They are why I have come here.
ZAKK

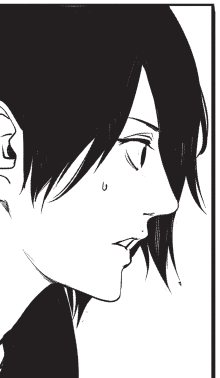


Thou wouldst have no interest in me once I became whole and perfect.

I had known...

...thy kindness would only last...

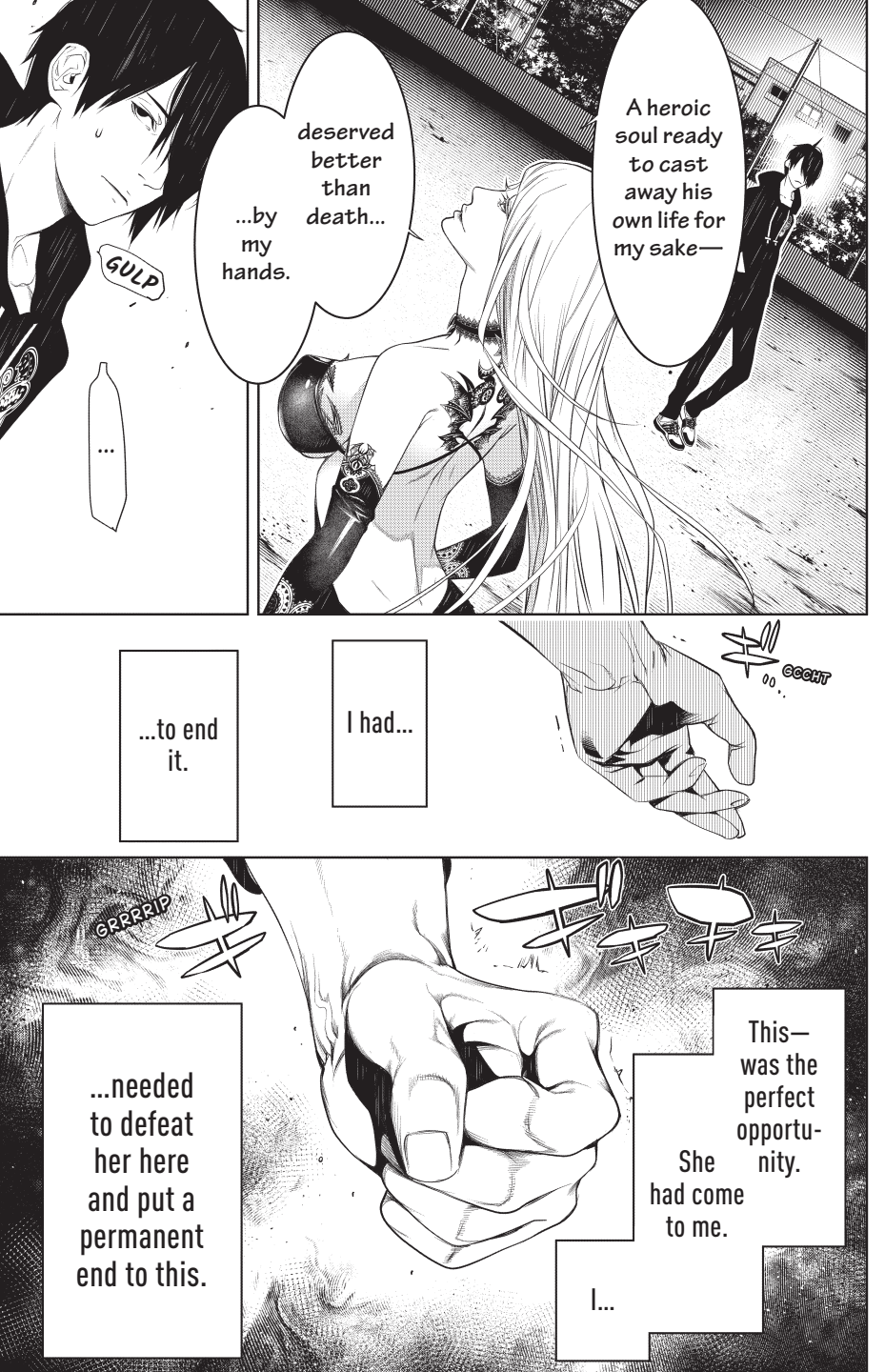
...whilst I was weak.



'Twas not because of who I am.

Thou wouldst have saved anyone—so long as they were weak.

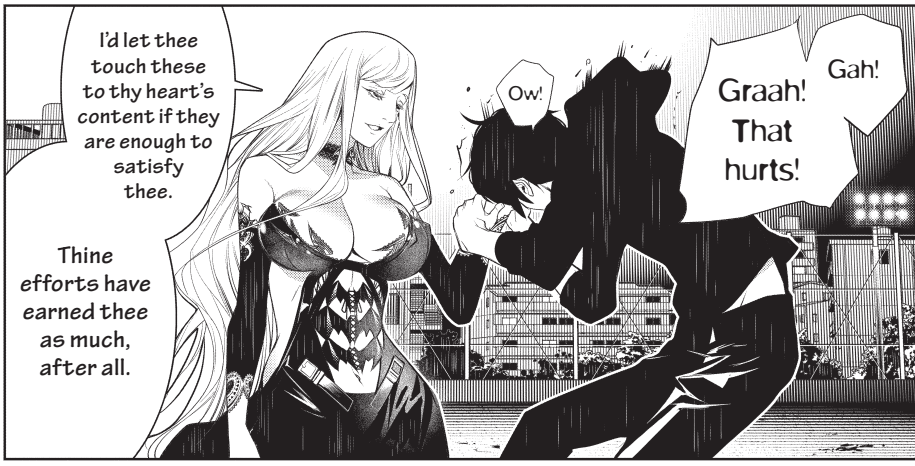
You would save anyone, Araragi.
Right ?
TWITCH
ピクッ
?!!
I thought it might turn out like this.
And so, aye—
?!
...was that?
What ...
Huh ?
Lowii
Incidentally,
wert thou aware? That I saved thee—as thyself.

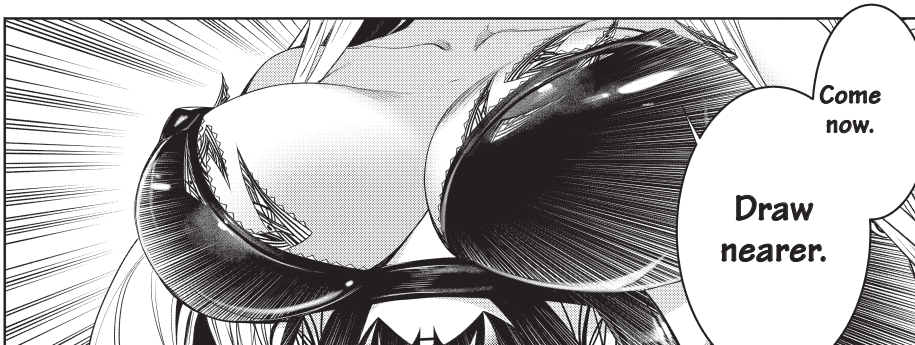

A heroic soul ready to cast away his own life for my sake—
deserved better than death...
...by my hands.
GULP
...
ECCHT
I had...
...to end it.
GRRRRIP
This—was the perfect opportunity.
She had come to me.
I...
...needed to defeat her here and put a permanent end to this.

This was so sudden, you know...?
I didn't have— a single strategy in mind...!!
What should I do?
Hm?
Lowii
ZSSHT
TWITCH

!!!
VA-VOOOM
... ... Mh!
I knew it.
They shook ...
And even more than I expected them to...!!
But— I'm fine.
My heart and mind remain un-shaken ...!!
Now, touch them.
Thank you...
...Hanekawa !!!
TWITCH
YODELAY-HEEHOO!
Do these sacks weigh on thy mind?
... What?
?

KRAK
GRAKK
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP


I'd let thee touch these to thy heart's content if they are enough to satisfy thee.
Thine efforts have earned thee as much, after all.
Ow!
Gah!
Graah! That hurts!


Come now.
Draw nearer.

BOOM
SWISH
SBLOTCH

Lest I'm mistaken,
thou art 17 years of age?
...

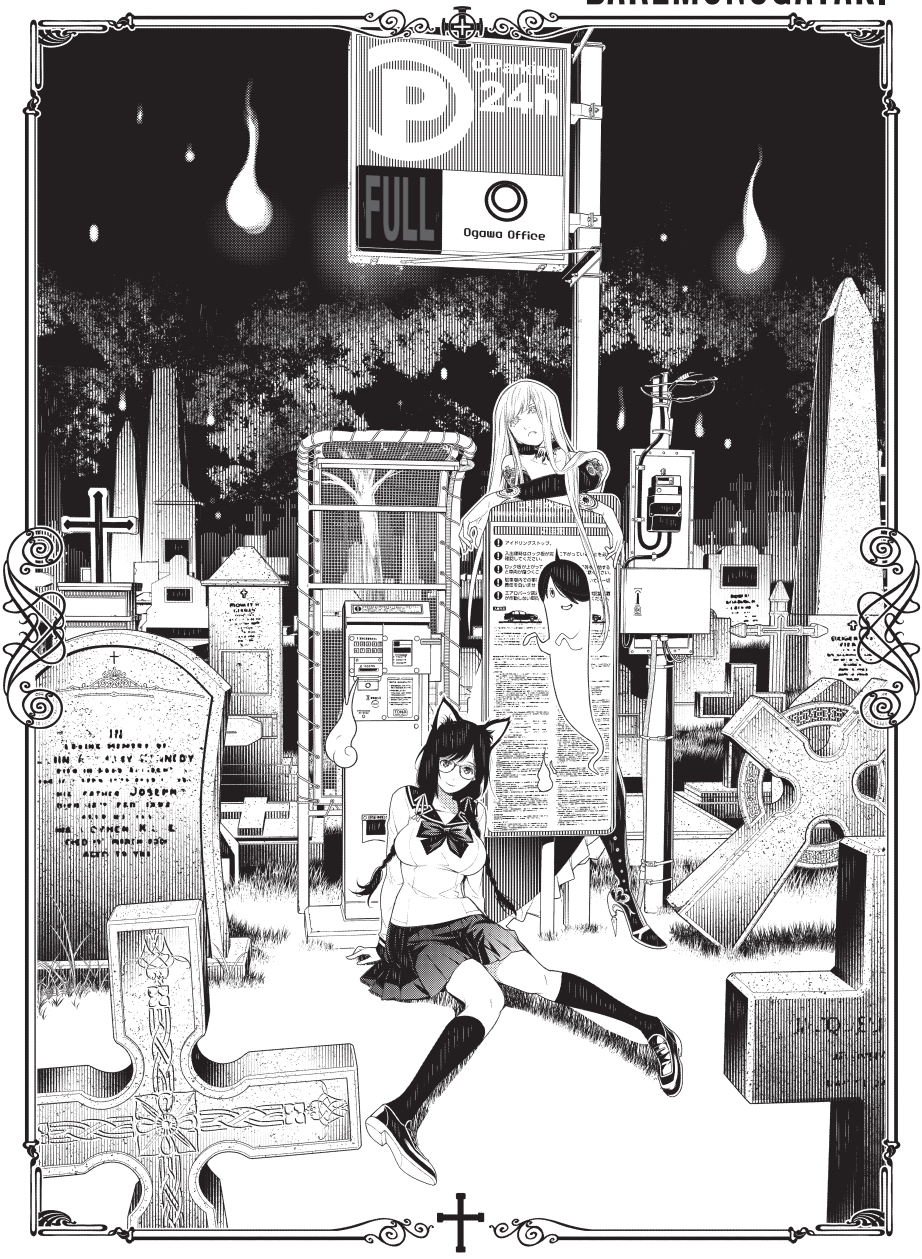
Still a time when one longs for their mother's teat, then.
Baah-baah-booo... ♡

...
BIT

[Puff-Puff]

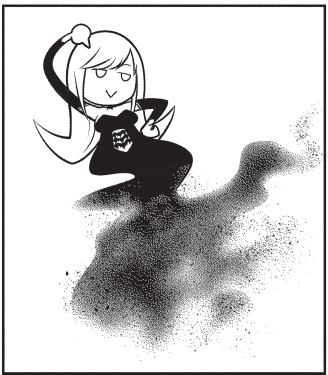
1. A phrase representing the sound or appearance of being squeezed between soft objects.
2. The name of an ability or action that appears in games, particularly the *Dragon Quest* series.
3. A rewarding act given by women to men. [In the manga *Dragon Ball*, actions performed upon Master Roshi.]

BAKEMONOGATARI



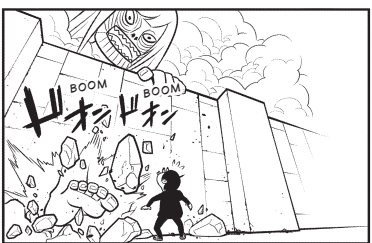
'Tis a rarity for one of my class.
An opportunity to truly engage myself.
Aye.
But now,
I face the most powerful of all the foes I have ever fought.
There is no need for me to hold back.
It is that which brings me joy.

PROHIBITED ACTS



No turning into mist

No flying



No transforming

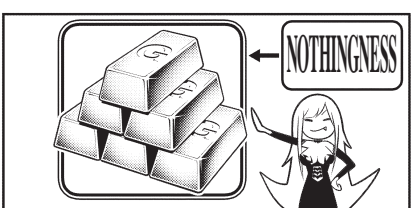
No disappearing

No turning into darkness

But—while I say this, I shall *give* thee a handicap.

None of those other, numerous vampire skills either

No using eye powers



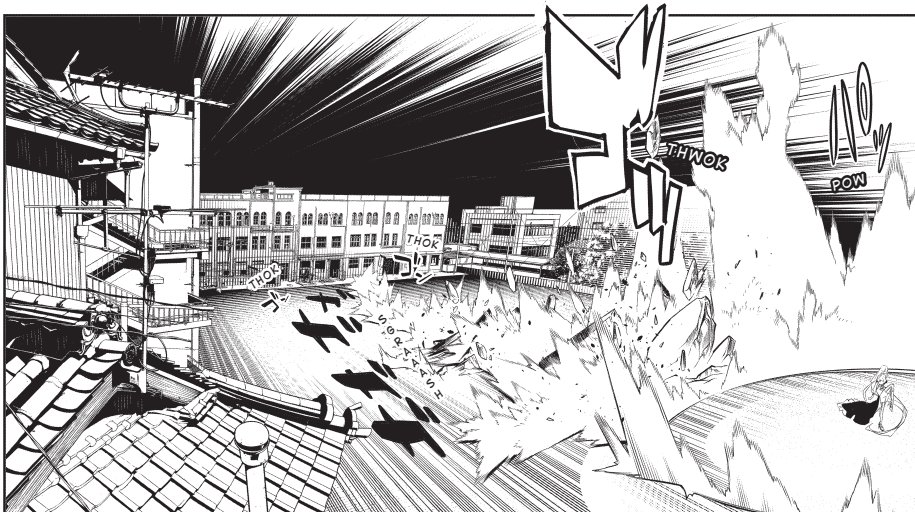
No generating matter

No sleeping

Lest this bout be over before I was engaged.
What was it that boy liked to say...? Ah, yes, "a fifty-fifty fight."
While I will be killing thee with malice and enmity— I'll give thee, ah...

THWAP
SPLATCH
BOOM
'Tis a game.

NNNN-
NGH...
ZWOPP

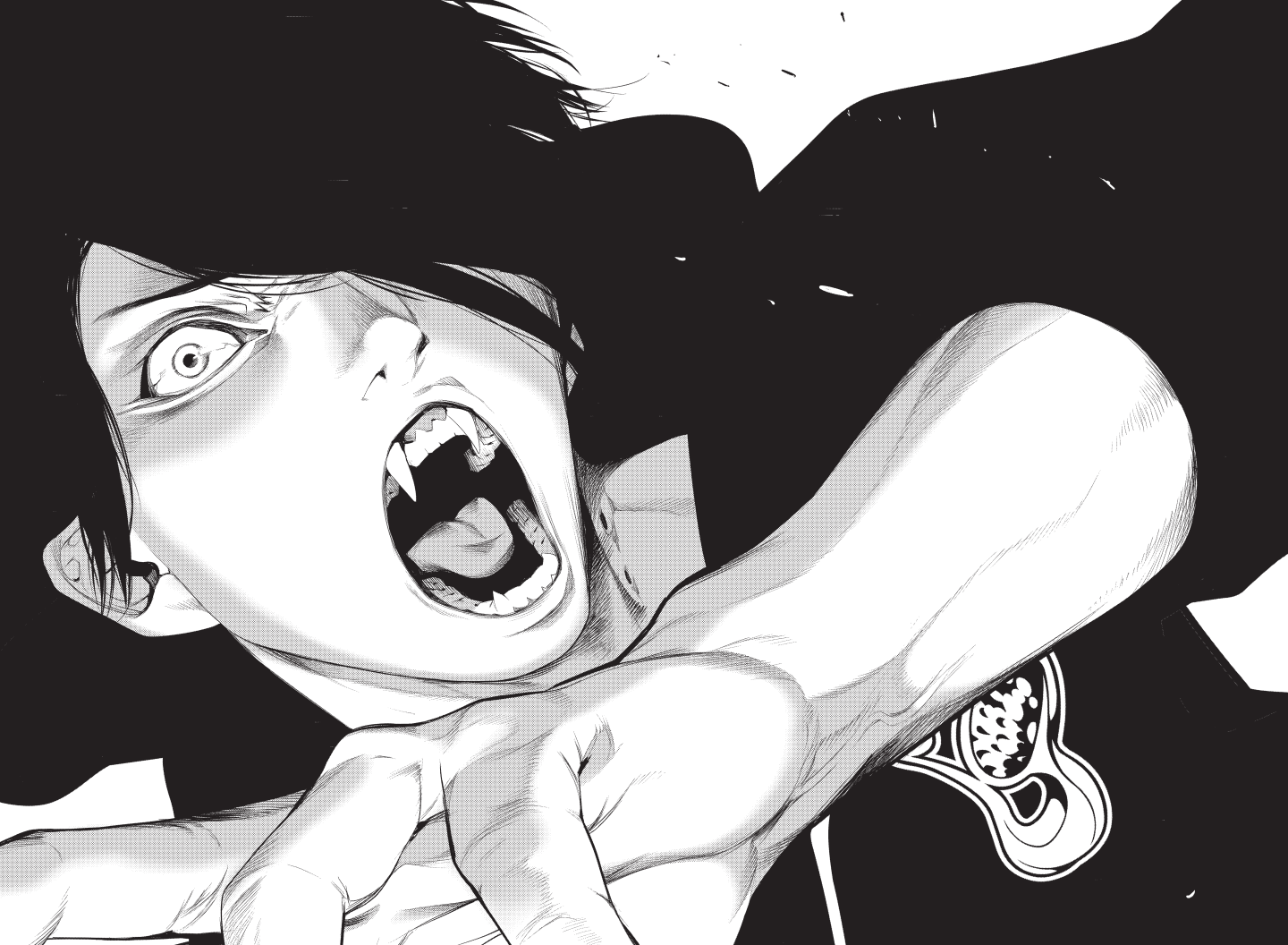

THWOK
POW
THOK
THOK
SORASH
SORASH

I now...
...am in better condition than I have ever been in these past 500 years.
I will have thee know.
KRAK
KRAK
YOU MUST REALLY BE BORED.

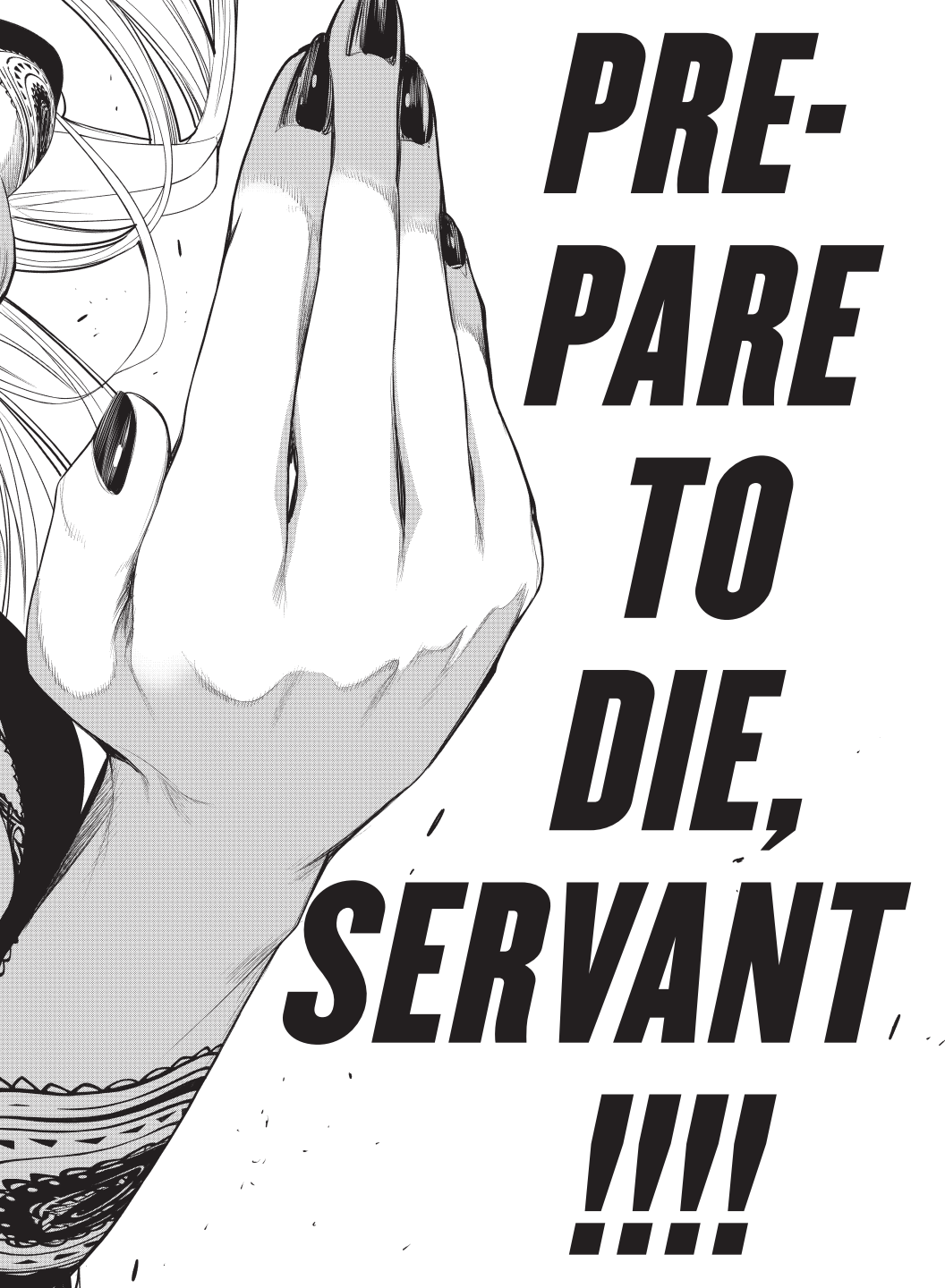
KO
POP

Haaah!
Hahaha
hahahahaha
hahahahaha
hahahahaha
hahahahaha
hahahahaha
BLURP
BLURP
Splendid! This is it! This is the thrill of two vampires fighting to the death!
Is it not, servant ?!
Kiss-Shot ...
I also have— one last thing.
BLURP
A final question I want to ask you.
What are...
The difference between a human...
...and a monkey?
...humans to you?

Some taste good.
HISSSS
Others taste bad.
I wanted ...
...to hear that from you, too.
HISSS



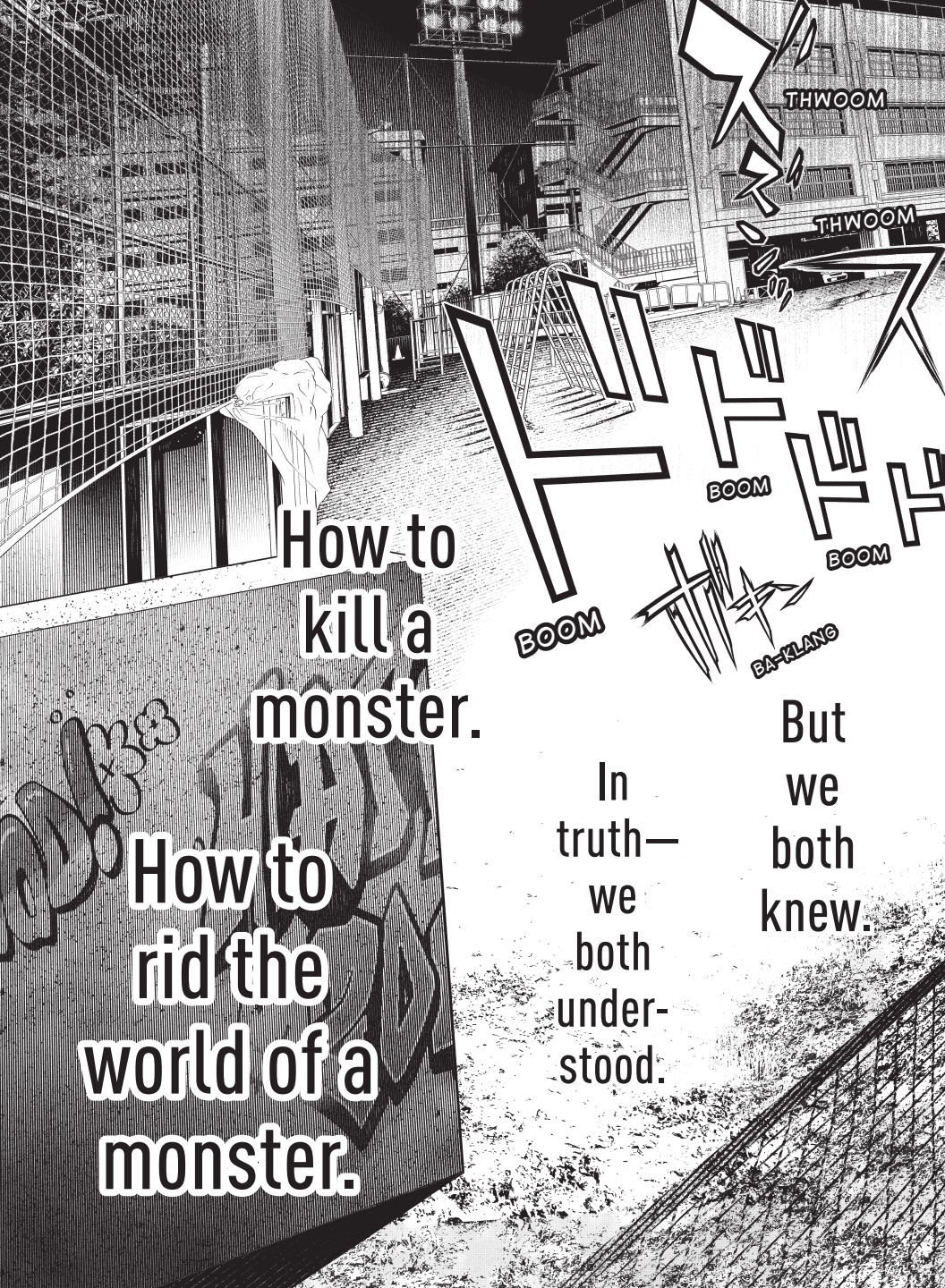
I NEED
YOU
TO DIE,
MASTER
!!!!


PRE-
PARE
TO
DIE,
SERVANT
!!!!

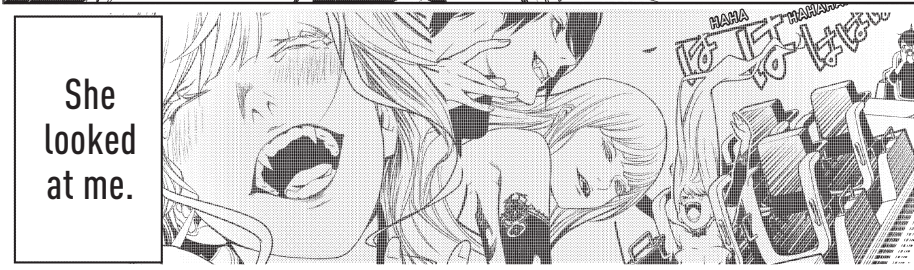
Kiss-
Shot.
THWAK
At the
end
of the
day...
...it
turns
out
I'm
human.
AHAHAHA-
HAAHAHA!

I want to believe him.
—That's what Oshino said.
"So long as you hold yourself as a person, you are a person."
Ah!
SPLAT
SPLAT
SNAP
SNAP
KRAK KRAK
GRRK
HYAAGH
SPLAP
SBLATT
BLOKK
KRAKK
BA-KBOK

SPLAT
KRAK
SPLURCH
KRAK
SNAP
SPLAT
SPLAT
KRAKK
THWOKK
We used every bit of strength we had to continue the dev-astation.
It was as if someone had bound us together, guiding us toward one another and our mutual destruction.
We would go until her immortality or mine gave out. If not, we'd go until her spirit or mine broke.
Our fight went nowhere.


THWOOM
THWOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BA-KLANG
How to kill a monster.
How to rid the world of a monster.
But we both knew.
In truth— we both under-stood.

Hee.


She looked at me.
HAHA
HAHAHA...

...from the smile she wore yesterday.
And the smile on her face was different...

化 *bake*

物 *mono*

KOYOMIvamp

14

語 *gatari*

化 bake

物 mono

KOYOMIvamp

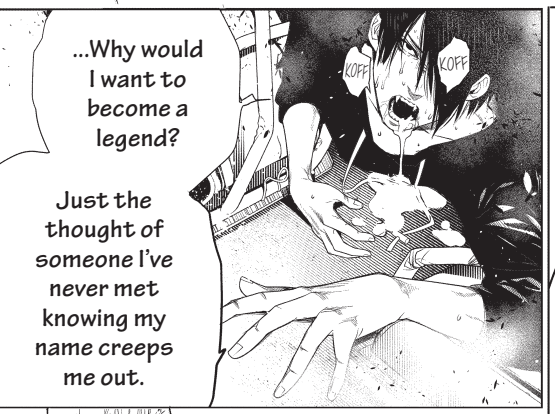
14

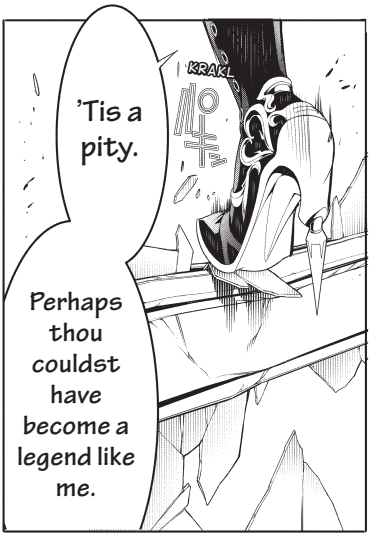
語 gatari

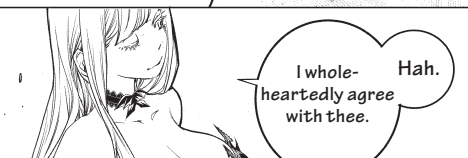
aaa
aaa
aaah!
Lowii
upper pitcher
ZAPP
Hah.

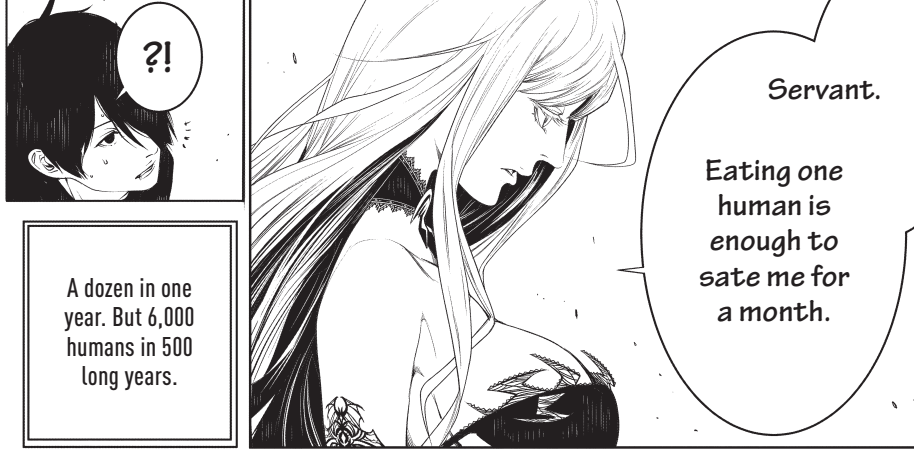
What are you, a mas-ochist?!
More! Bring more destruction upon my body!
Aye, excellent!!! What taste and under-standing!! I would expect no less of my servant!
HA
BLURP
BOOM
I SHAN'T DENY THE CHARGE!!
SCREEE
BOOF

BA-KRAAASH


...Why would I want to become a legend?
Just the thought of someone I've never met knowing my name creeps me out.
KOFF
KOFF


'Tis a pity.
Perhaps thou couldst have become a legend like me.
KRAK


I whole-heartedly agree with thee.
Hah.


?!
A dozen in one year. But 6,000 humans in 500 long years.
Servant.
Eating one human is enough to sate me for a month.

FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
Billions of humans who work to devour every last living creature.
I am by no means some threat to the world.
Surely the hunger of man is far more ravenous.
'Tis clear who poses the greater threat to this planet.

That's not the problem, Kiss-Shot.
BWOOF

KRAASH
KRAK
KRING
KRAK
If we are to speak of what is right to eat and what is not,
such standards even differ from human to human.
And yet...
Thou shalt not eat cow.
Thou shalt not eat pig.
Thou shalt not eat whale.
Thou shalt not eat dog.

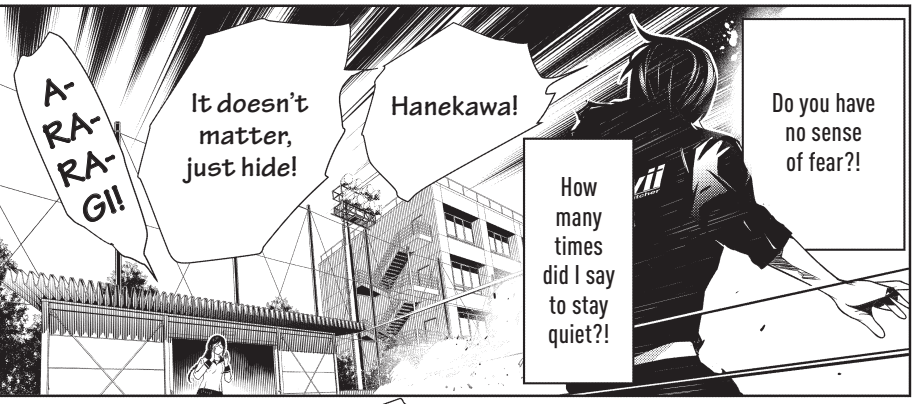
PJT
THWAK
ZBLATT
And yet, thou insist that I die *because* I eat *humans?*

...what Kiss-Shot was trying to say.
I under-stood...
That's right.
Yeah.
ZSSHH
THUDUDUDUD
She was trying to do some-thing ...
...to save my life.
But the thing is...
...I'm human,
Kiss-Shot.
I see.
HISSSS

KRAASH
KRAKL
KRAKL
I—am a vampire.
She didn't meet my eyes.
It was as if she were telling herself...
...just to be sure...

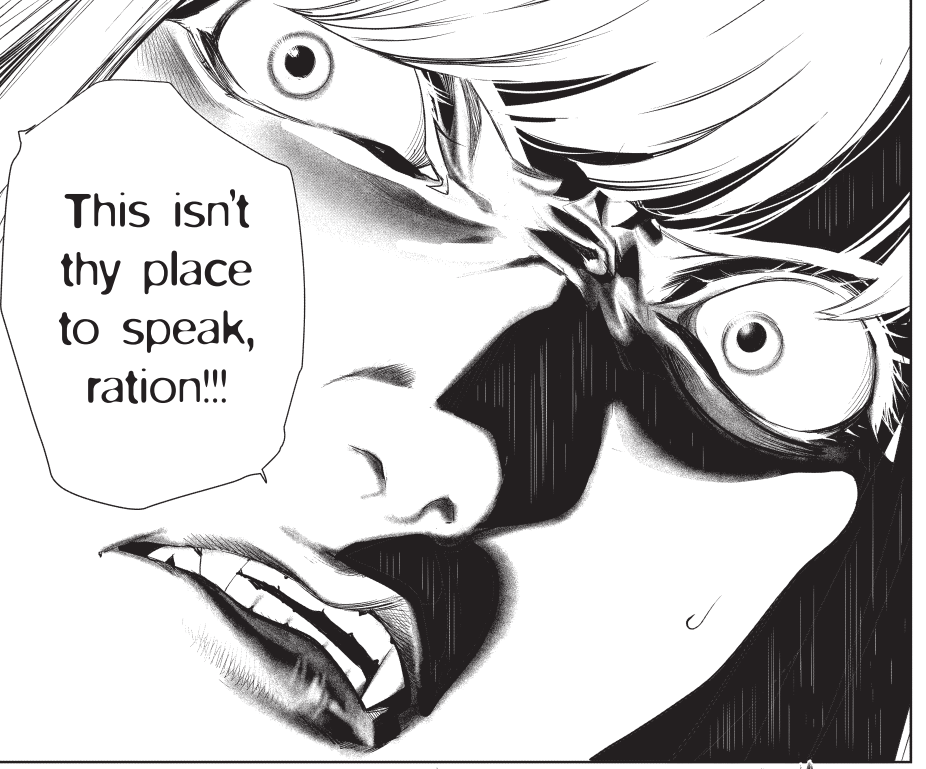
HOLD ON A SEC-OND !!!!
ARA-RAGI !!!
BLUP
SOME-THING'S— OFF.
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE!!

That something ...
...is you !!!!


Do you have no sense of fear?!
How many times did I say to stay quiet?!
Hanekawa!
It doesn't matter, just hide!
A-RA-RA-GI!

NO! LISTEN TO ME, PLEASE ?!
THIS —
It doesn't matter!! Just run!
Hurry !
Get as far away as you can from here!

...hugely important...!!
...overlooking something...
I think we're still...
For a while now— something's been... all wrong.
Araragi...
Huh?
Overlooking something...?
There's no way—
Still? Even now...?


This isn't thy place to speak, ration!!!

Hanek ...!
SORRCH

...only for thee to get carried away!
I ignored thee as thou servedst a purpose ...

?!
TWITCH

Wait... What?
Did Kiss-Shot just get... *flustered*?

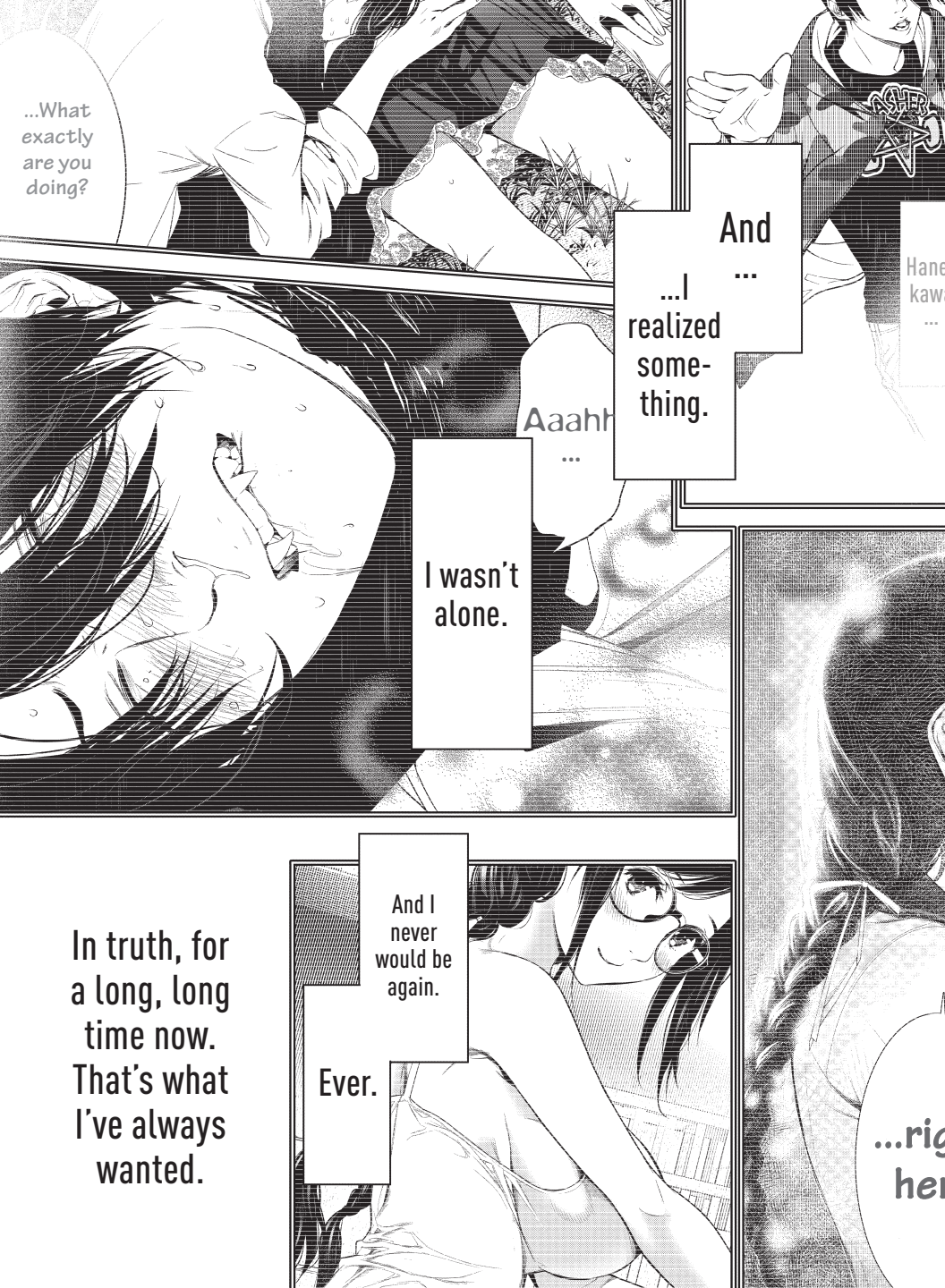
BWOOM
HMPH
KLONK
BAM
BLUP
KRASH
RATTLE RATTLE
BA-BOOM
ZAKK

Miss Heart-Under-Blade!
Could you be—
?!
TWITCH
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
THWMP
THWMP
THWMP
You...!
PSSHT
SCRRCH
Stay out of this, lowly ration!

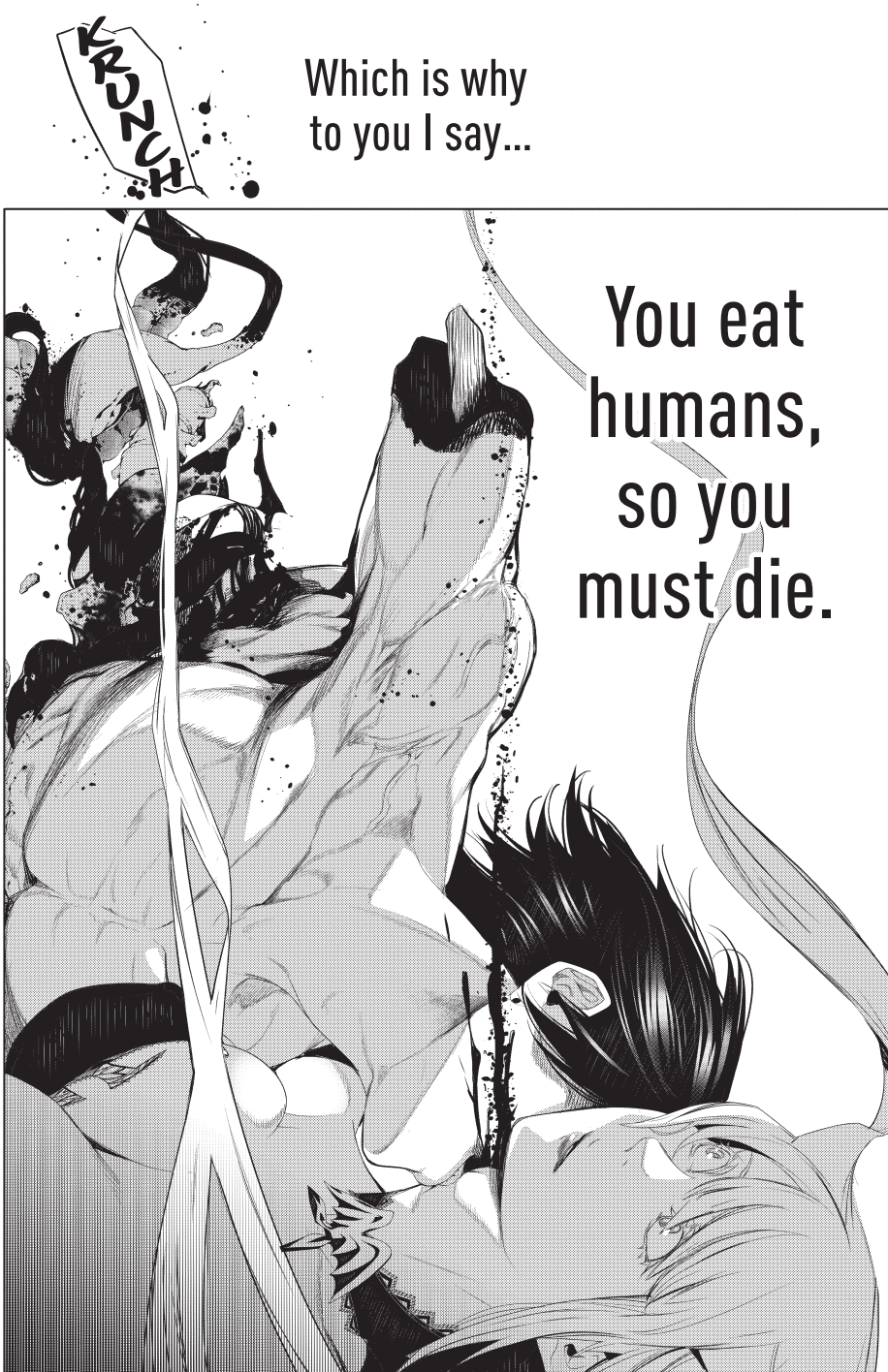
An opening.

BANG
Something that would have never appeared had we simply kept breaking each other apart—
an opening.
In any case, do be careful not to let him suck thy blood.
Vampires who have their blood sucked by another vampire will see their very existence wrung dry.
Yeah, I'll be careful ...
Kiss-Shot—
you told me...
...how to kill you.

NO, THANK YOU!
HEH HEH HEH.
During this...
...hell of a spring break...
...I met Hane-kawa.
I made a friend.
It's okay.
You're ...
Look.



In truth, for a long, long time now. That's what I've always wanted.


KRUNCH
Which is why to you I say...
You eat humans, so you must die.

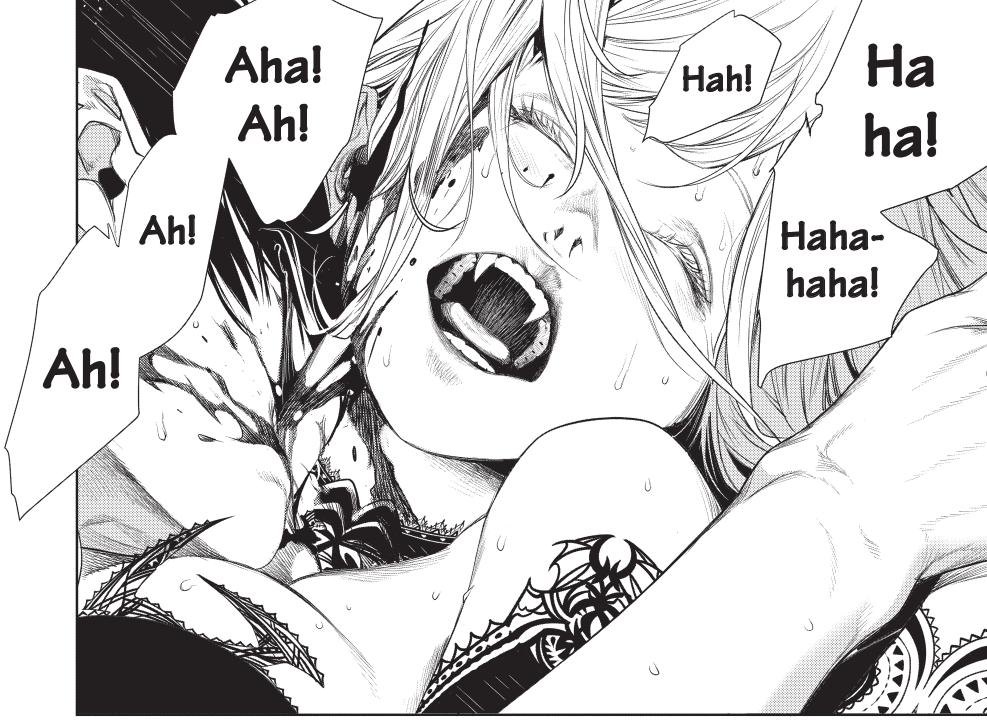
Ah...
Kiss-Shot—
I'm human.
And
so...
...will
kill
you.
I...
SPLAT

Bakemonogatari 14

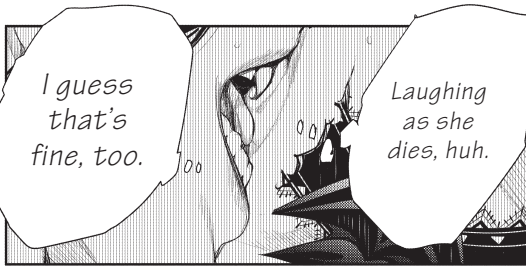
Kaa
FLAIL
FLAIL
Haa
Kah—
FLAIL
...
Ka-kaah!
Hah!
...
Hah...
Ha

Ha
Ha
Ha
ha

Ha Ha
ha
Ha
Ha
Ha


Aha!
Ah!
Ah!
Ah!
Hah!
Ha
ha!
Haha-
haha!

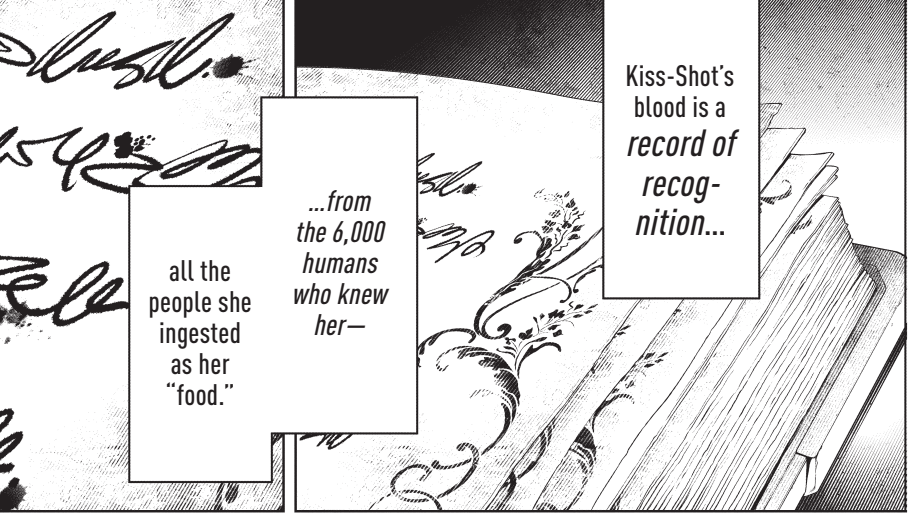
Kiss-Shot's—
blood.

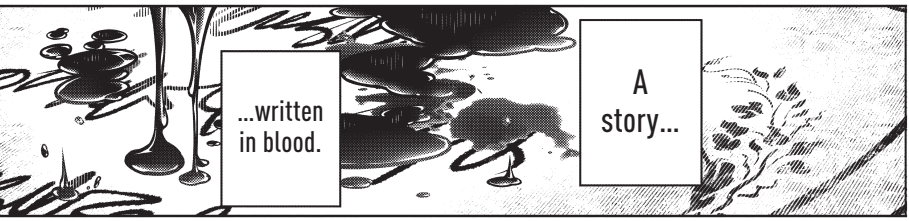

I guess that's fine, too.
Laughing as she dies, huh.

...than their very existence.
To a vampire, it is nothing less...
The blood of a vampire.

It was Kiss-Shot herself— who taught me this.
If a vampire has their blood sucked by another vampire...
...their very existence —
vanishes.
...of the aberration known as Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade.
This blood ...
...could be called the story...

When was it—that Oshino told me?
You know what aberrations are, Araragi?
They're something that can even be born from graffiti you'd find in a toilet stall.
Aberrations *exist everywhere,*
and they *exist nowhere.*
That's how indistinct they are as existences. And so—
it's only because someone *recognizes one...*
...that an aberration...
...exists—there.
Hanako-san is coming
TAKOCHIN
HANAPON
LOOK TO THE LEFT
You're an idiot if you looked
I'm still young



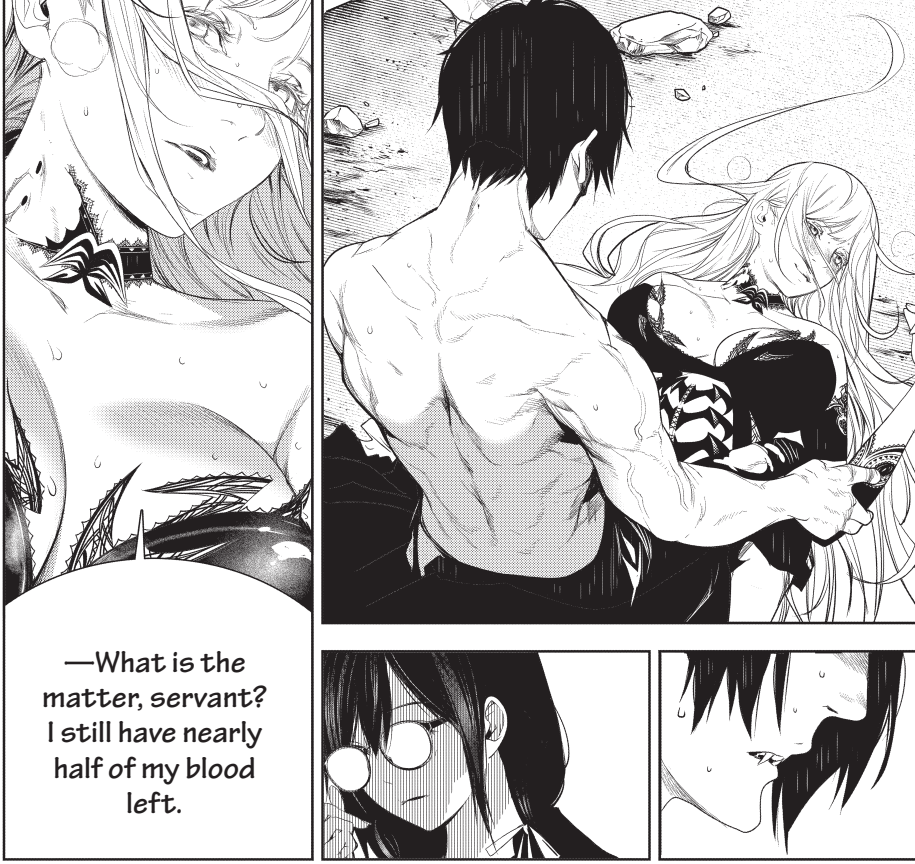


It would be as if...

...she never even existed in the first place.

—What?
KRAKL
And then...
And then... it suddenly came to me.
What did Hane-kawa—just say to me?
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
There's something we're overlook-ing...
...hug impor ant...
I think we're still...
For a while now—some-thing's been...
Araragi ...
That's what she said.

Wait, no. From the very start—
...become so flustered that she even gave me an opening?
That's right.
Why did Kiss-Shot ...
I gotta say, I like how you do things, Heart-Under-Blade.
You made Araragi your thrall...
...but you intend to turn him back into a human.
—Right? ♡
...Hm?
Hmmm ...?!
Hold on...


—What is the matter, servant? I still have nearly half of my blood left.

While I may not be able to move for now,
I will recover in no time unless thou makest haste.
I shan't give thee another opportunity like this one.

How…
Hey—Kiss-Shot.
H…
…if this really is my only option.
The logic—doesn't add up…
…were you going to turn me back into a human?
…
It's strange.
TCH
Why is it that you came here?
I—also have a question for you.

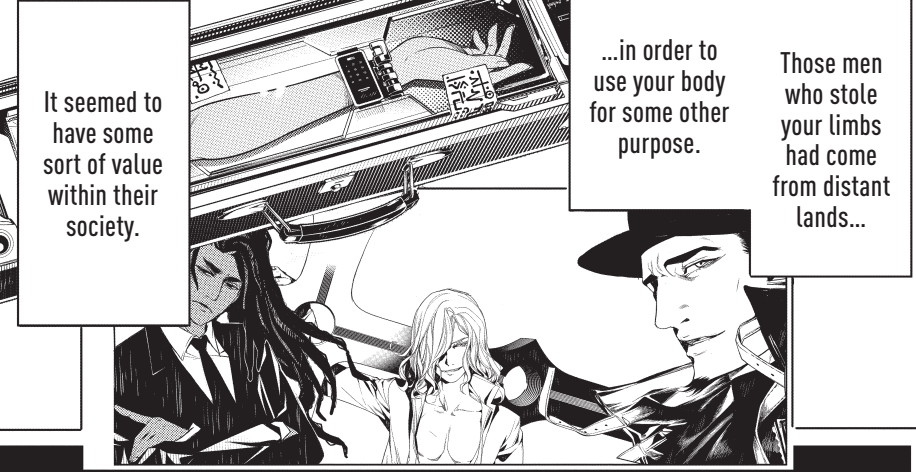
Isn't that...
...why?
You planned to have Araragi kill you from the very begin-ning.

Then could you please tell me how you were planning on turning Araragi back into a human?
I looked it up— but I couldn't find any other way of turning a vampire back.
ZAKK
On what grounds dost thou dare—
That's enough foolishness from thee, ration.
Hmph.
...

It does concern me.
...concern thee in any way?
How does this...

Araragi is a true friend to me, someone I'm obligated to save, even if I have to risk my life.
HOW WEIGHTY!

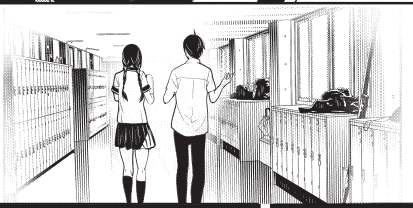
Hah.
I never intended to turn this servant of mine back into a human.
'Twas a lie I told, as I needed to make him work for me.
That's not true.
Miss Heart-Under-Blade ...
You had Araragi gather your missing parts— not for your sake,
but for Araragi's sake... didn't you?
... What?!

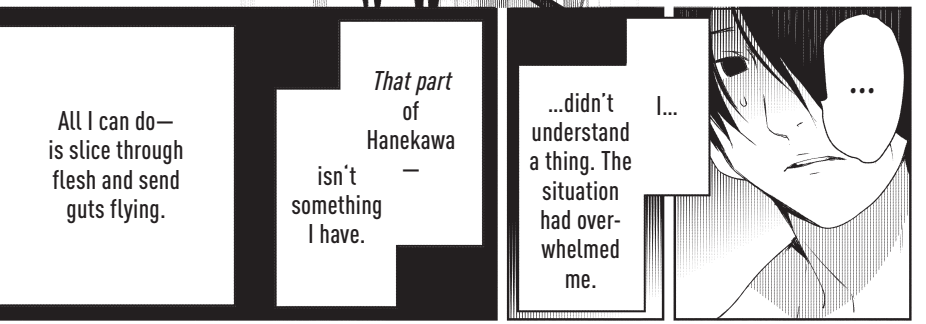

It seemed to have some sort of value within their society.
...in order to use your body for some other purpose.
Those men who stole your limbs had come from distant lands...

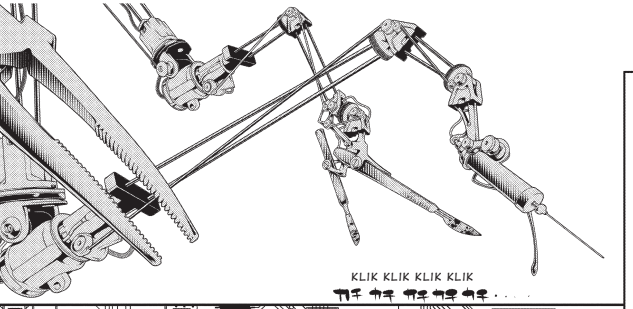
...and it would then be impossible to ever fully recover them.
divided up...
Had they been able to return, your body parts would eventually be sliced into pieces,

That would also mean you could never return Araragi to being human.
That—is what you feared.
In other words,
your existence would continue to remain in this world.

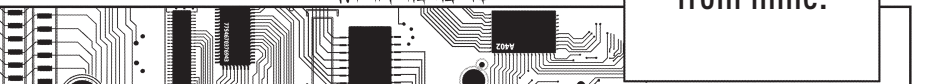
F-Fool! It was nothing of the sort!
Then could you please explain why you came here?!
Wait, Hane-kawa.
You stay quiet, Araragi!
ZING
...
Araragi had a reason he needed to fight you.
—But you didn't have anything, did you? Despite that stuff about fighting with everything you had—
and all those other forced explanations of yours.
...then why didn't you kill me back there?
I'm already convinced of it—if that was your only reason...







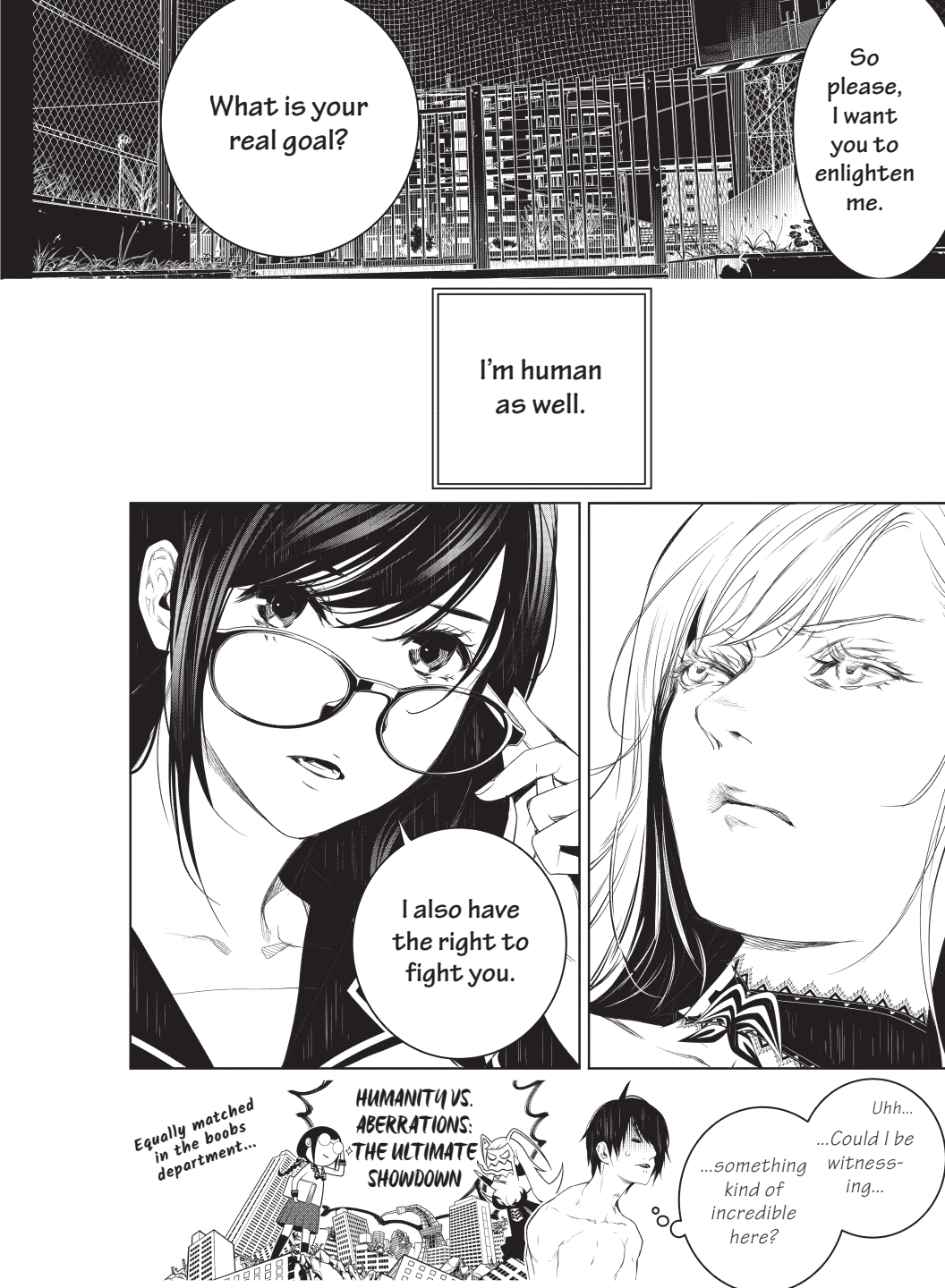
Her ability to fight— is different from mine.

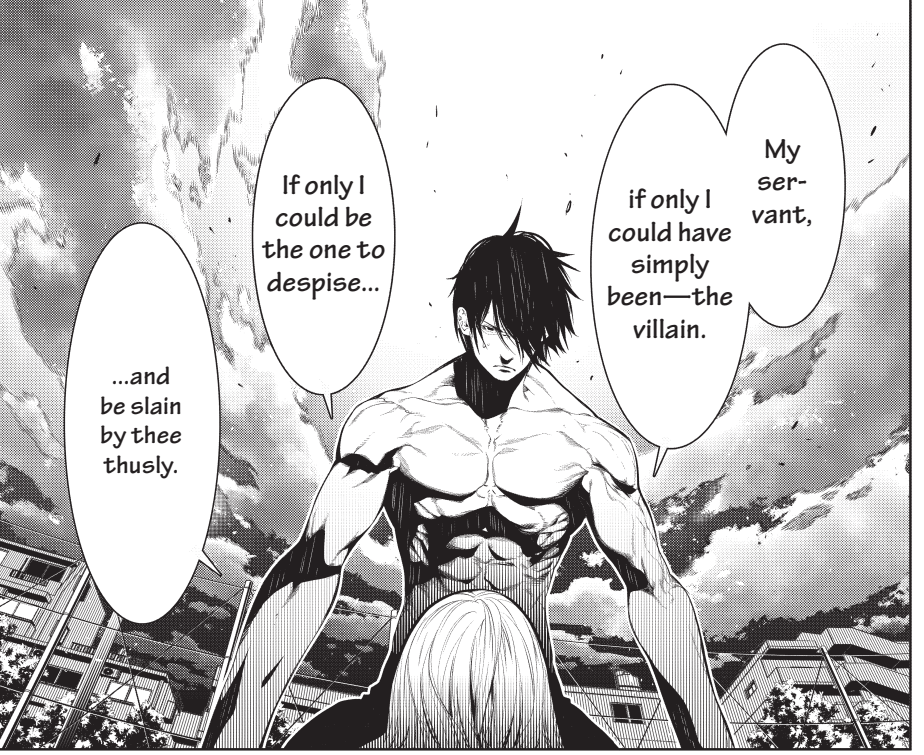


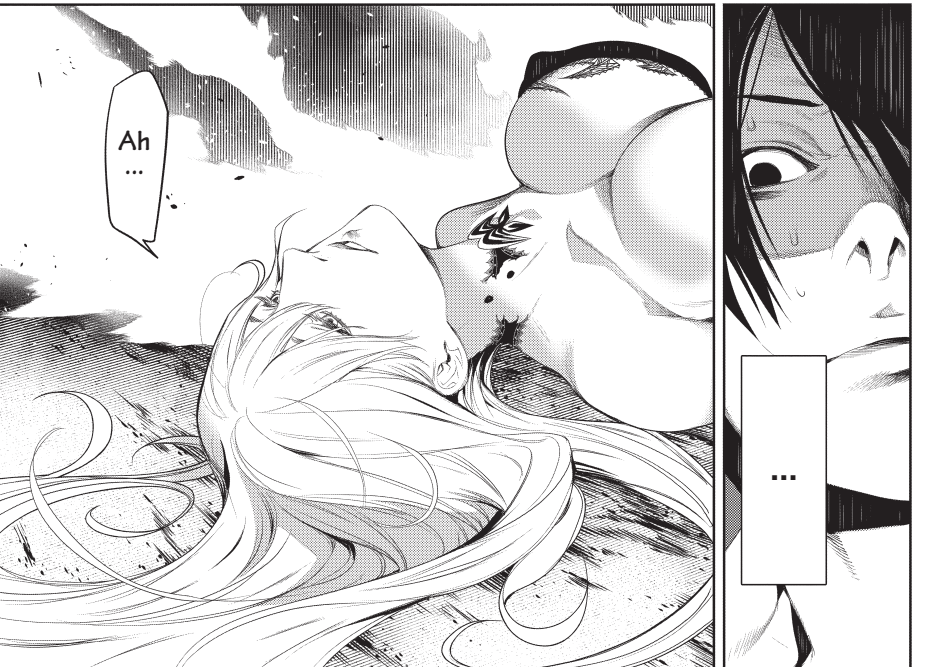
Read her like a book. Not just every word and phrase but even the spaces between the lines—stripping her completely bare to the point of near-cruelty...

She'd broken Kiss-Shot's existence down into pieces.

HOW DARE A LOWLY HUMAN PROUDLY PRETEND TO SUCH KNOWL-EDGE!
THEN THOU SHALT WAIT AND SEE!! ONCE I RECOVER, I'LL SEND THY HEAD FLYING WITH BUT A SINGLE STRAND OF MY HAIR!
TH...
I don't know everything.
I just know what I know.


What is your real goal?
So please, I want you to enlighten me.
I'm human as well.
I also have the right to fight you.
HUMANITY VS. ABERRATIONS: THE ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN
Equally matched in the boobs department...
...something kind of incredible here?
Uhh... ...Could I be witness-ing...

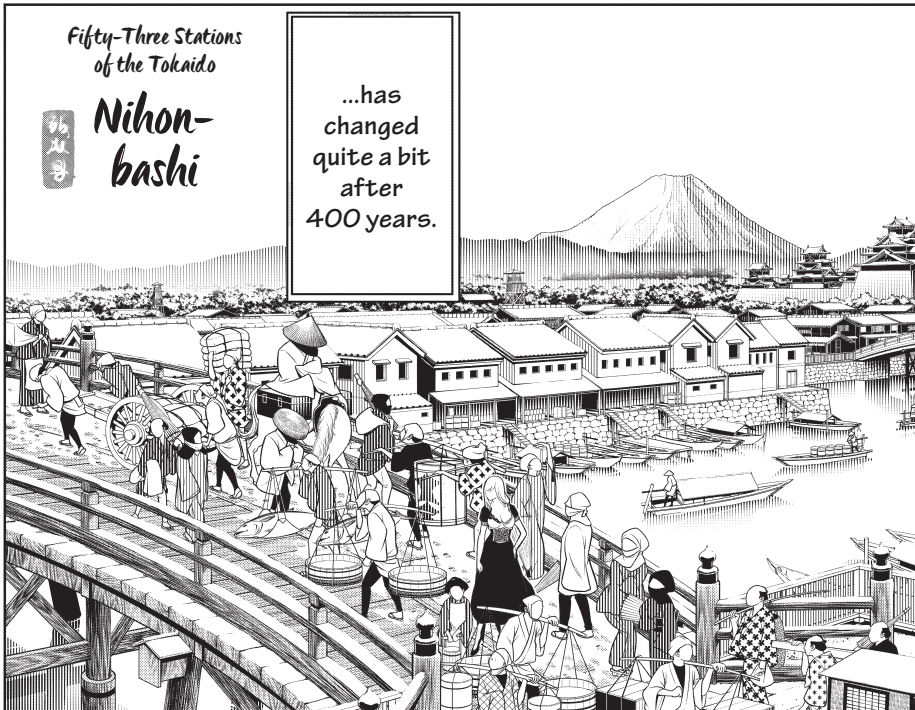

My servant,
if only I could have simply been—the villain.
If only I could be the one to despise...
...and be slain by thee thusly.

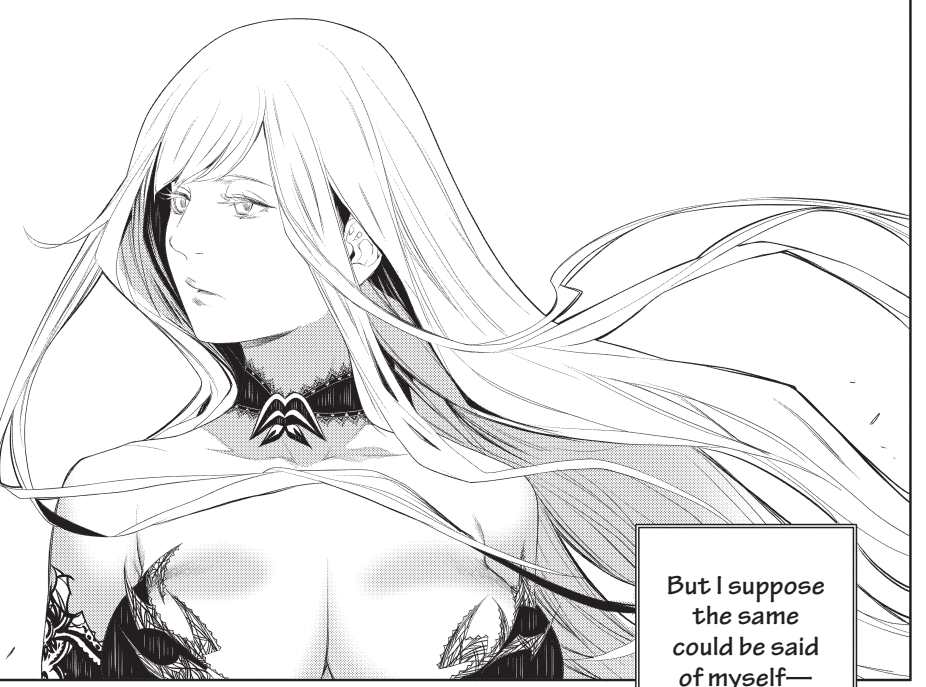

Ah...
...

Hast thou lived for 500 years?
How clever thou must think thyself... Believing thou hast discerned my intentions.
Ration.
How couldst thou understand?
Boredom...
...seeps into the bones.
It rots the heart and mind from their very roots.

...
I...
...as a result of boredom.
...I certainly can't say I've ever felt distressed...
...came to this country...searching for a place to die.
Boredom is a killer — of vampires.
Boredom is a killer of man— no...
A common reason—one accounting for nine-tenths of vampire deaths.

Nihon-bashi
Even this country...


Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido
Nihon-bashi
...has changed quite a bit after 400 years.



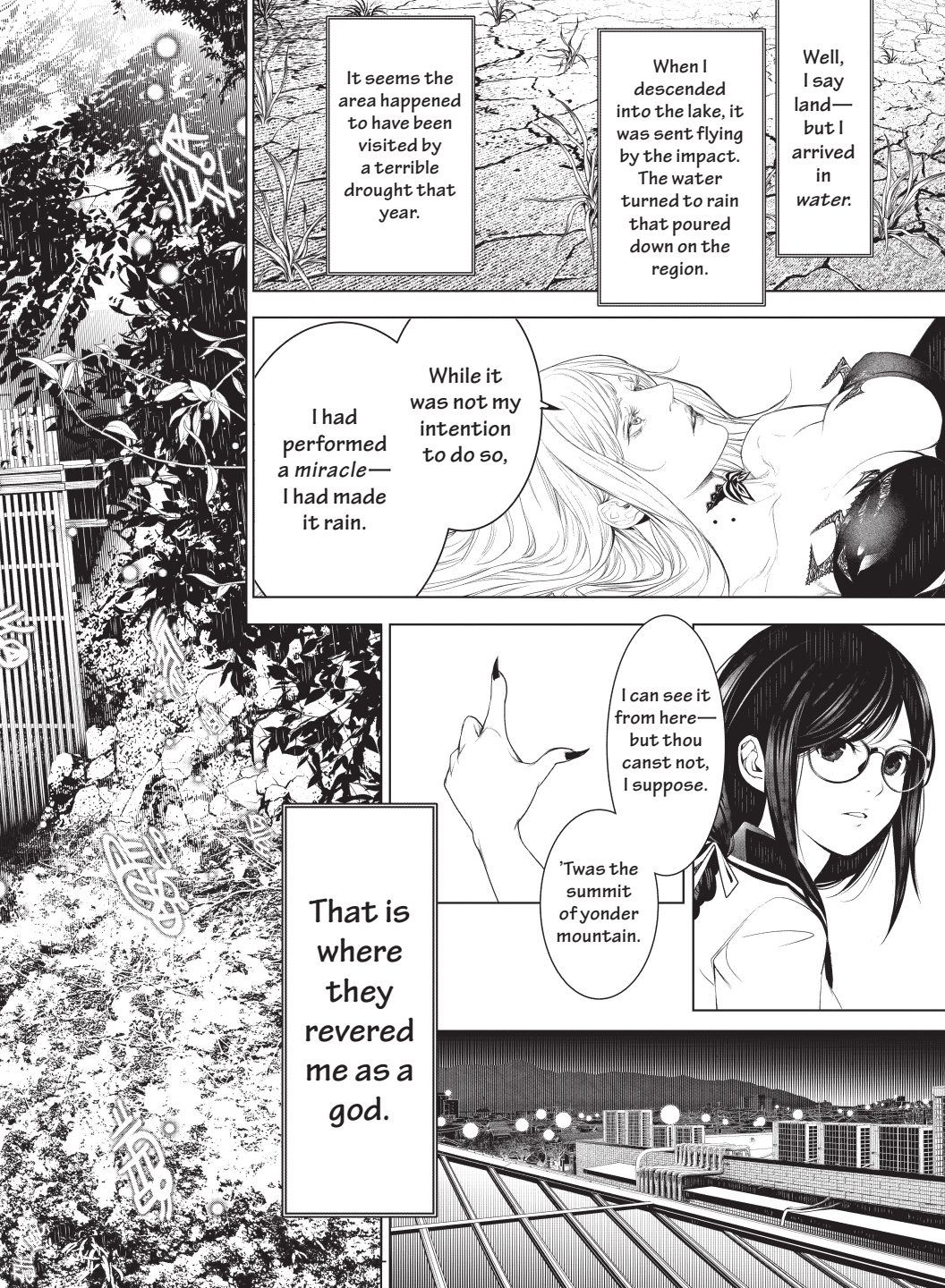
But I suppose the same could be said of myself— I was young then, in my prime in both body and mind.

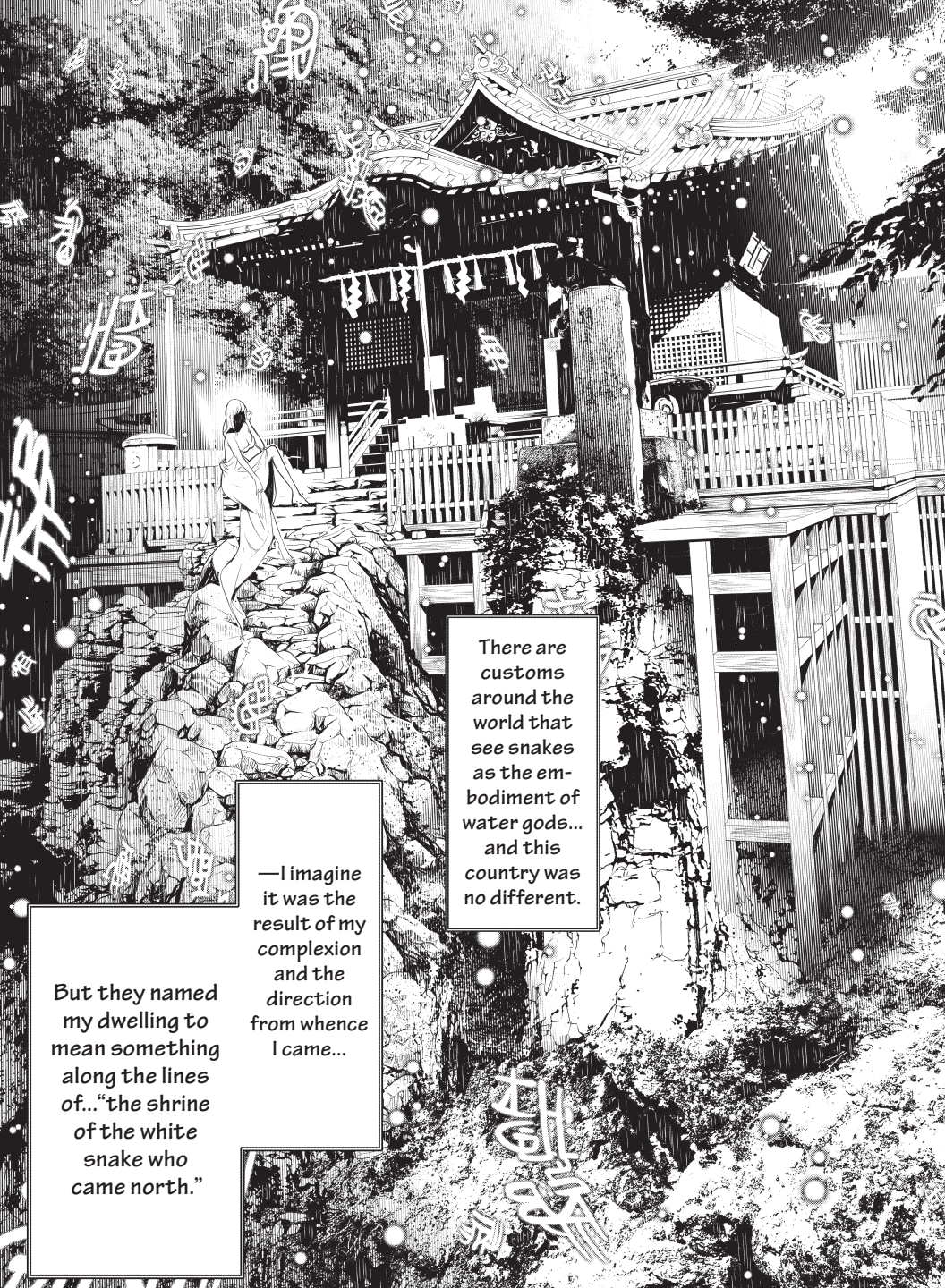
Perhaps around the age of 20, wert thou to put it in human years.

Bored already, yes, but I still possessed that which thou wouldst call hopes, dreams, and curiosity.

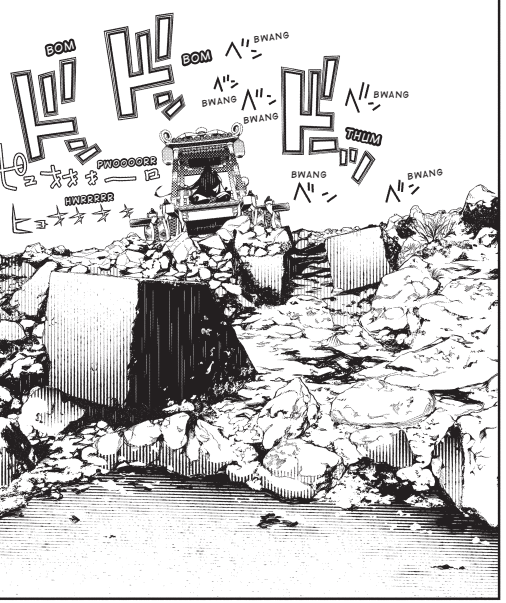
SH
SH
SHK
SHK
SHK
WHRRRRRRRR
SH
SHK
SHK

I was at the South Pole.
SHBOOOM
ZWSH
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
I'd grown quite tired of living in the most frigid lands of the south.
From those lands, I haphazardly took a great leap and just so happened to land—in this country.


Well, I say land— but I arrived in *water*.
When I descended into the lake, it was sent flying by the impact. The water turned to rain that poured down on the region.
It seems the area happened to have been visited by a terrible drought that year.
While it was not my intention to do so,
I had performed a *miracle*— I had made it rain.
I can see it from here— but thou canst not, I suppose.
'Twas the summit of yonder mountain.
That is where they revered me as a god.

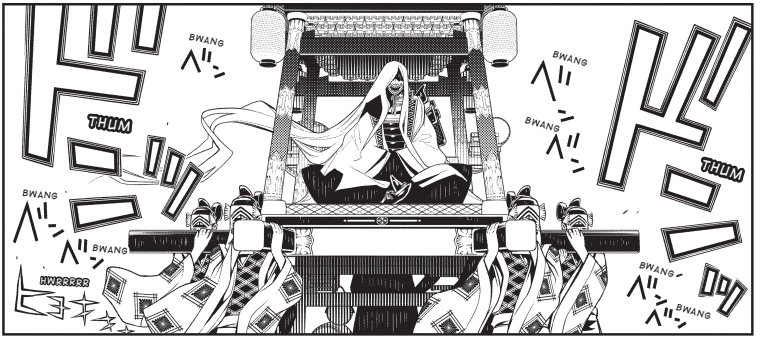

There are customs around the world that see snakes as the embodiment of water gods... and this country was no different.
—I imagine it was the result of my complexion and the direction from whence I came...
But they named my dwelling to mean something along the lines of..."the shrine of the white snake who came north."

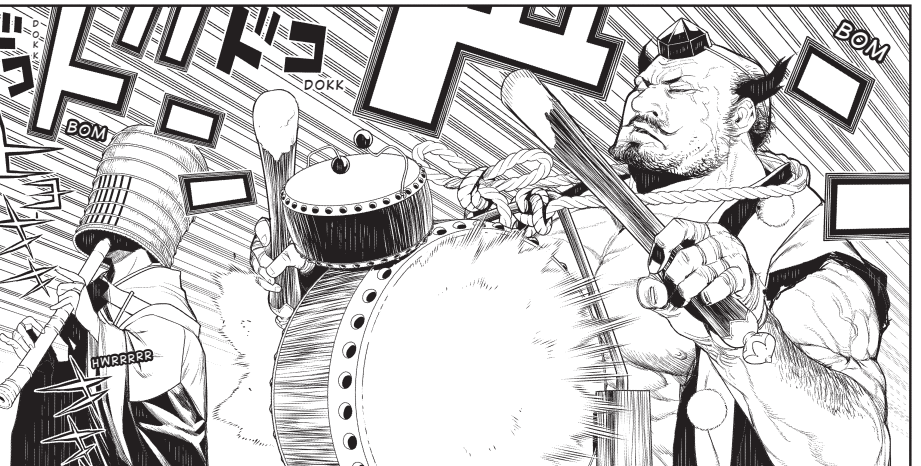
White snake. Shira-hebi.
...
Of course, back then—
I had no way of knowing about that shrine.
But everything—must have been connected.
It must be connected. That place I became so deeply involved with when I was handling the incident with Nadeko Sengoku—
Kita-Shirahebi Shrine.

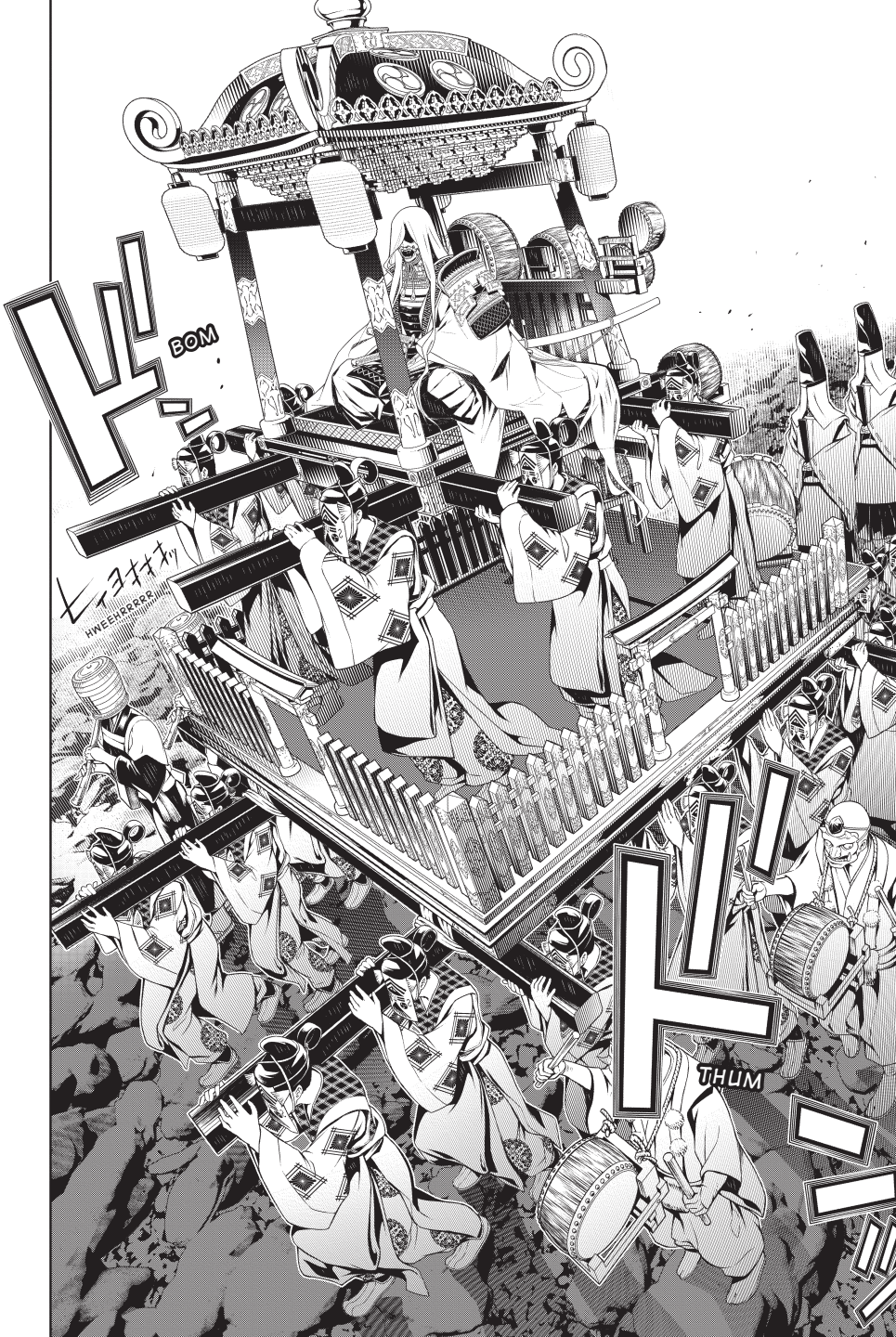

BOM
BOM
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
THUM
BWANG
BWANG
PWOOOORR
HWRRRRR

Fnagh
?

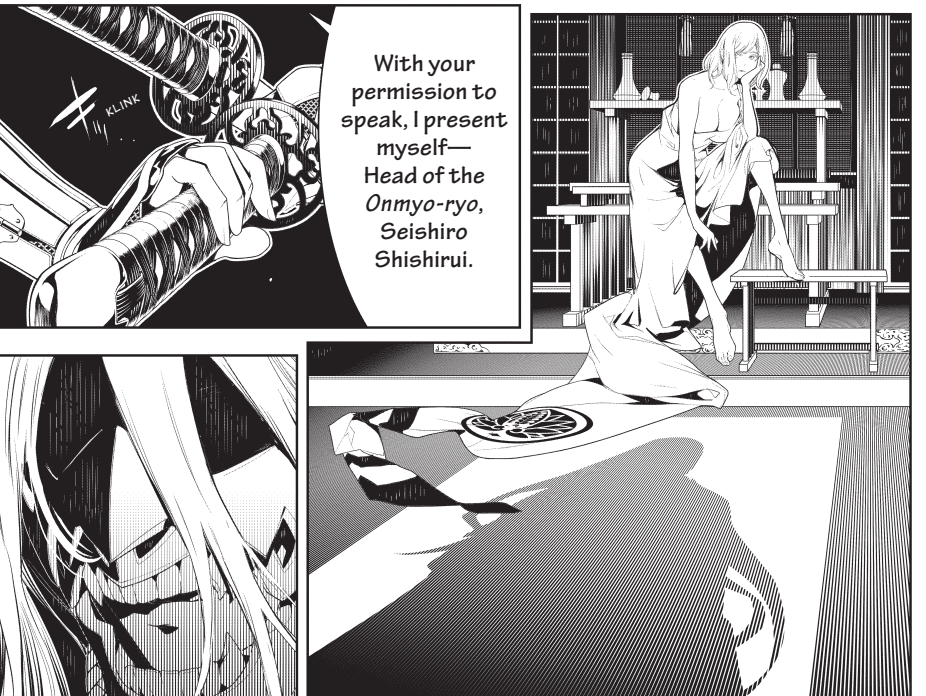
Mh.


BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
THUM
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
THUM
BWANG
BWANG
HWRRRR


DOKK
BOM
DOKK
BOM
HWRRRR

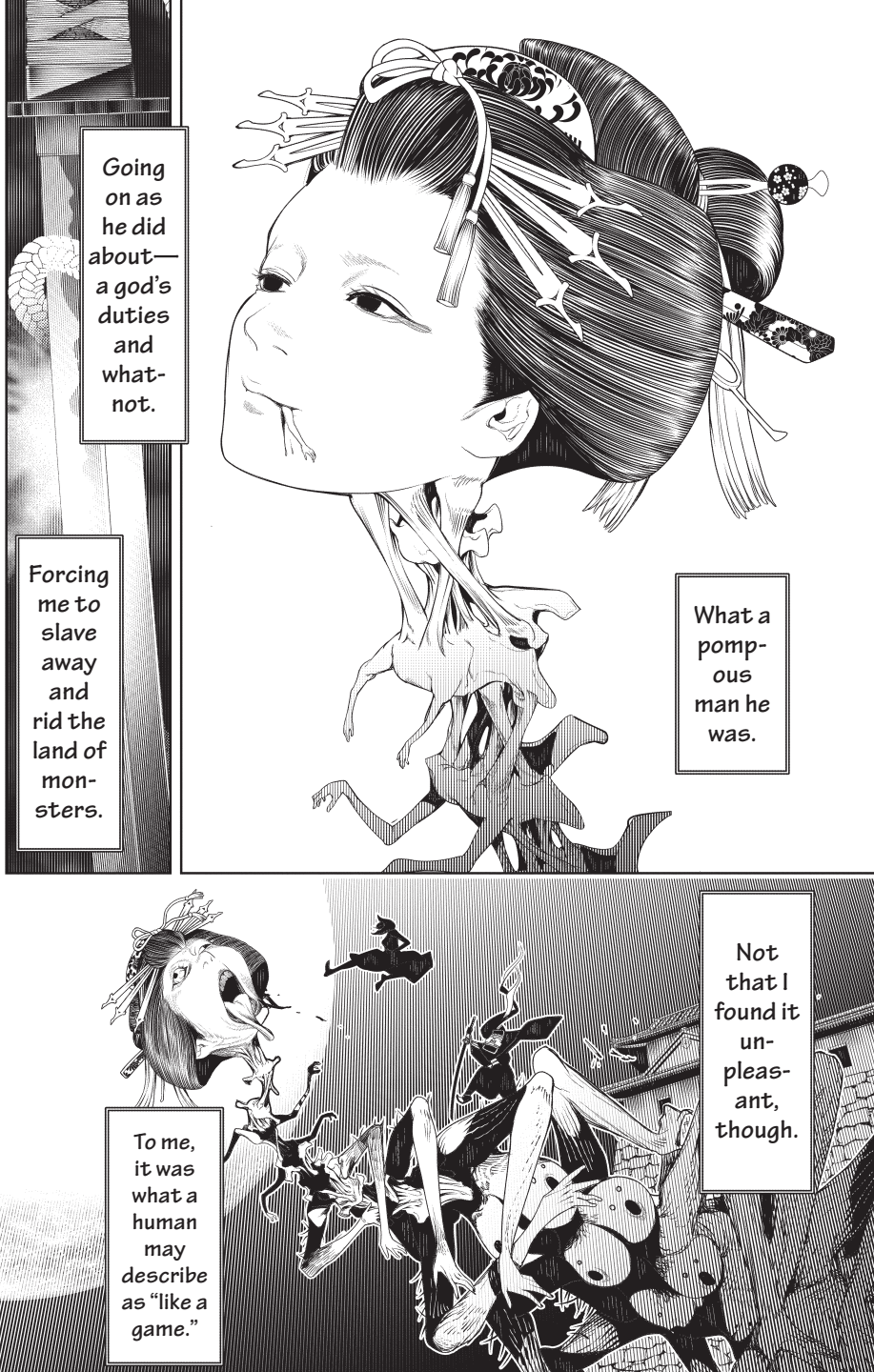

ドーン
BOM
ヒィヨオオオオッ
HWEEHRRRR
ドーン
THUM

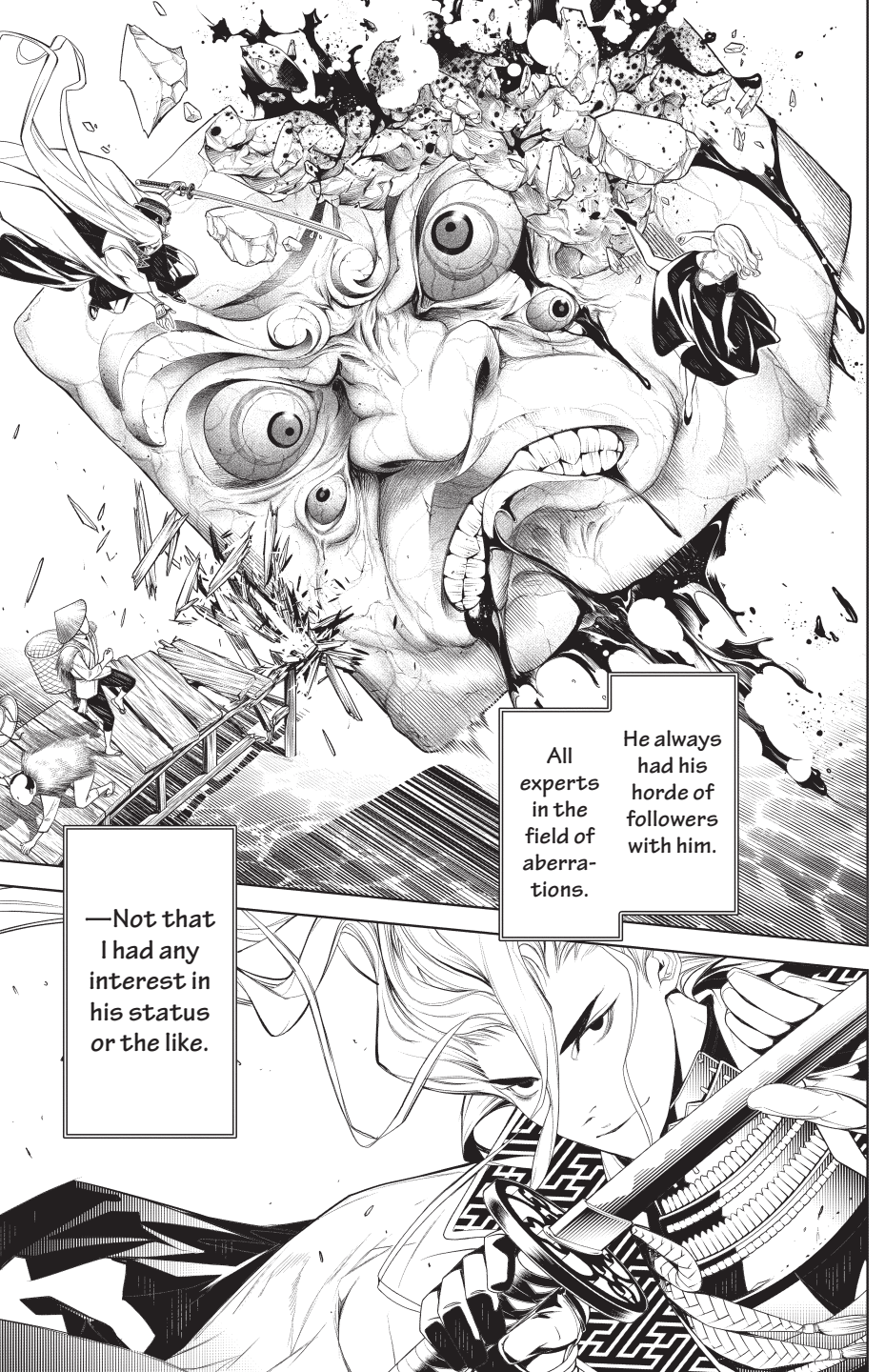
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG

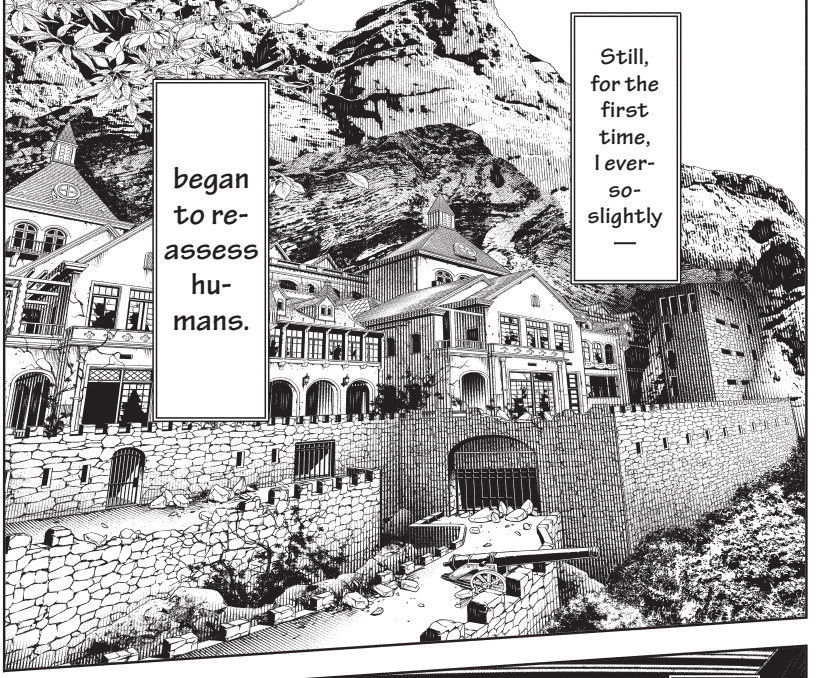

KLINK
With your permission to speak, I present myself— Head of the *Onmyo-ryo*, Seishiro Shishirui.

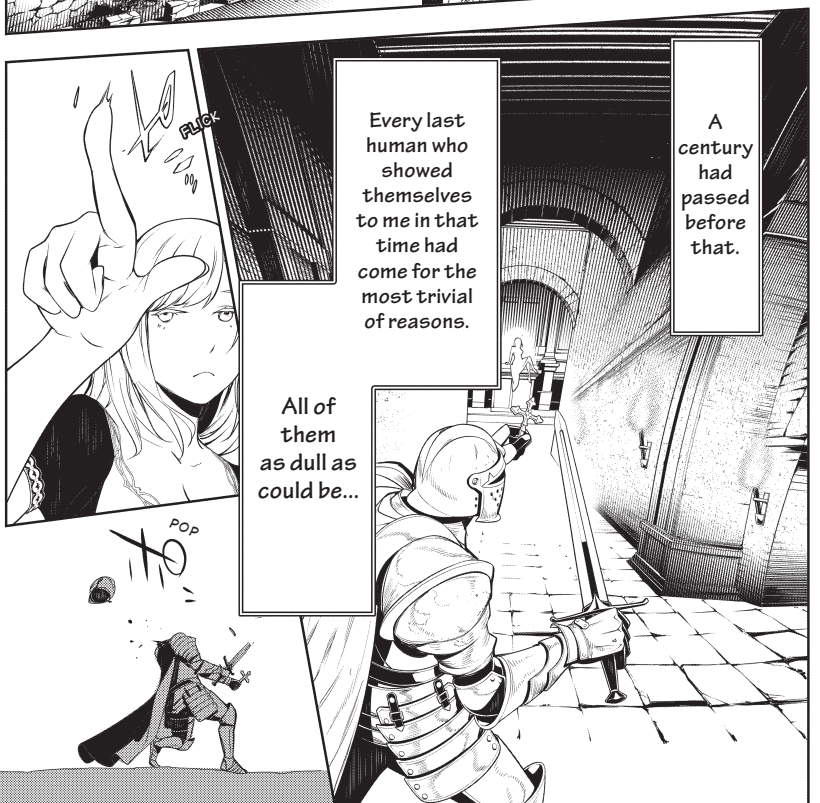
GRRK
FWOOSH
Very well.
Let us depart once more.
SST

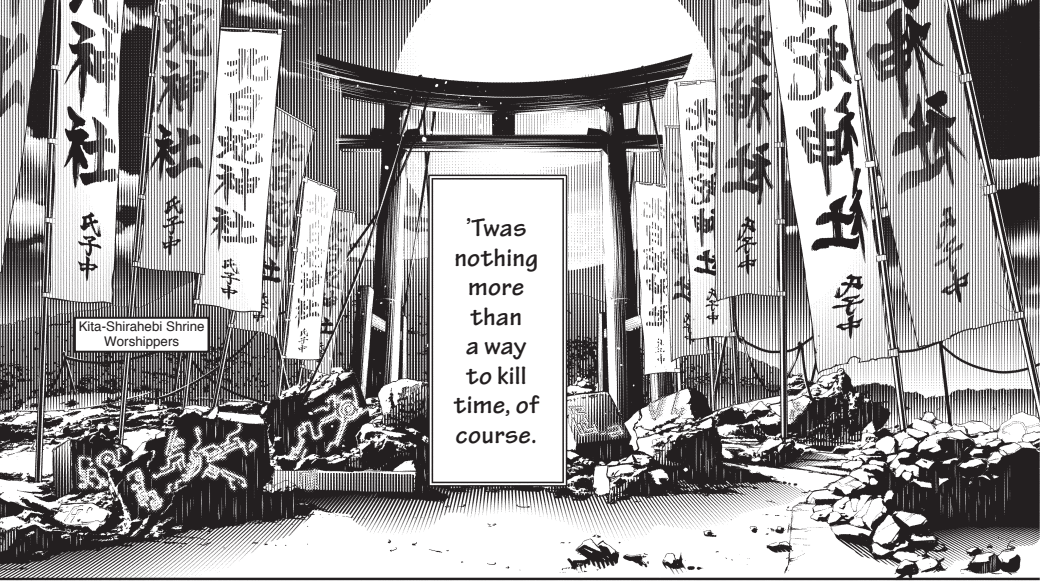
O holy one.
It is time to carry out your duty.
Let us hunt monsters.
CHINK


Going on as he did about—a god's duties and what-not.
Forcing me to slave away and rid the land of monsters.
What a pomp-ous man he was.
Not that I found it un-pleas-ant, though.
To me, it was what a human may describe as "like a game."

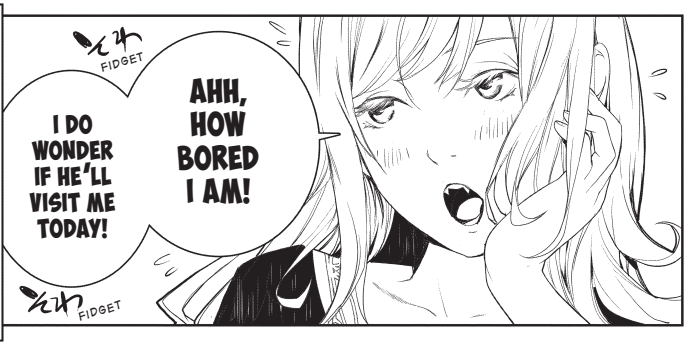

He always had his horde of followers with him.
All experts in the field of aberrations.
—Not that I had any interest in his status or the like.

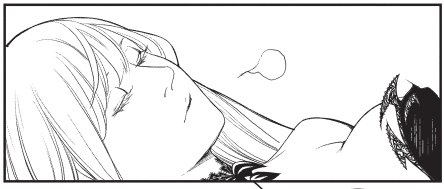

Still, for the first time, I ever-so-slightly —
began to re-assess humans.


A century had passed before that.
Every last human who showed themselves to me in that time had come for the most trivial of reasons.
All of them as dull as could be...
FLICK
POP



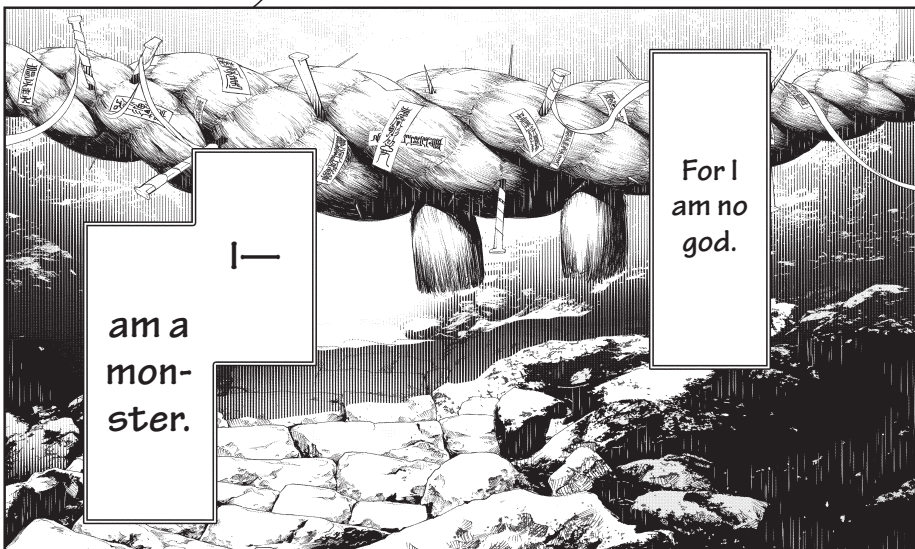
Just a hint of spice in my dull life as a vampire.





But of course.

This life as a god— did not continue for long.



BAKEMONOGATARI
14

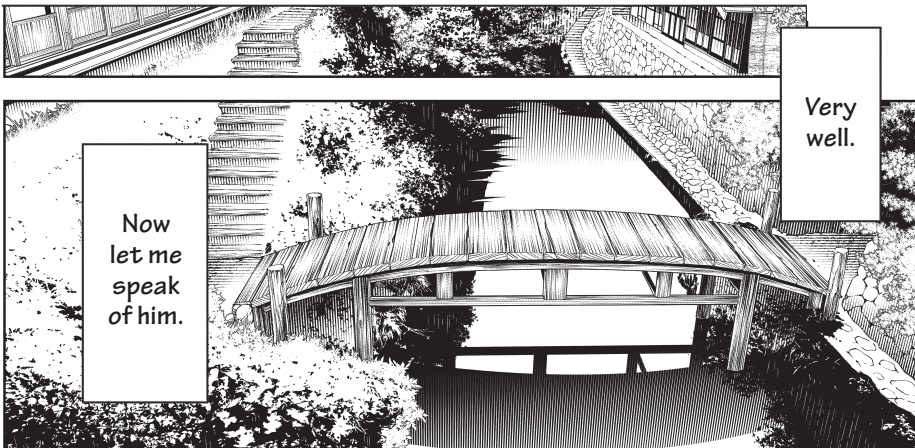
14

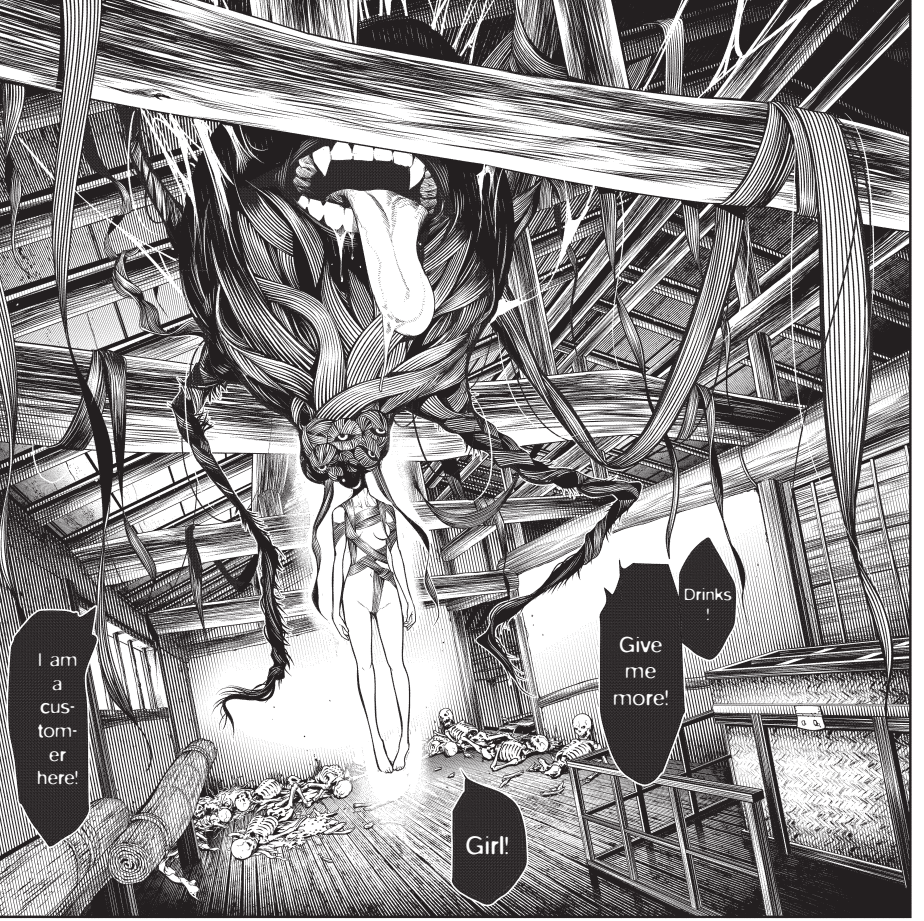
BakeMonogaTari

Hold on a second.
There's something I want to get straight here.
This, uh... Seishiro Shishirui guy?
He was still a human during all of this—right?
Aye.
It was from him that I learned the tongue of this country.
Even my mind worked quite swiftly in those prime years of mine.
Acquiring it took little time at all.

Or "braided big-boobie class president."
Such as "*moe*."
And now I learn modern words of this land from thee.

I-I-I DON'T REMEMBER EVER TEACHING YOU THAT ONE!!!
NOW HURRY UP AND GO BACK TO TELLING YOUR STORY, YOU DAMNED VAMPIRE!
...
...


Very well.
Now let me speak of him.


I am a cus-tom-er here!
Girl!
Give me more!
Drinks !

SKLANG

OOO

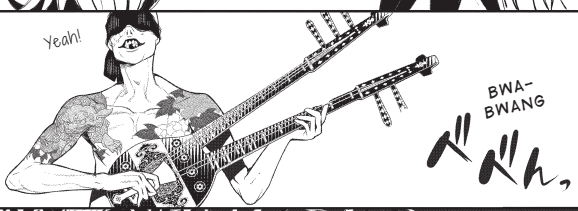
For a human,
his strength was on a different level.
KLANK
Even if I were to fight him—
well...
...perhaps he would not slay me,
but I might suffer a solitary wound.

I've all of you to thank. Excellent work.
Phew.
!!
SMILE

At times...

...

...he had quite the youthful countenance.



A year or so later.

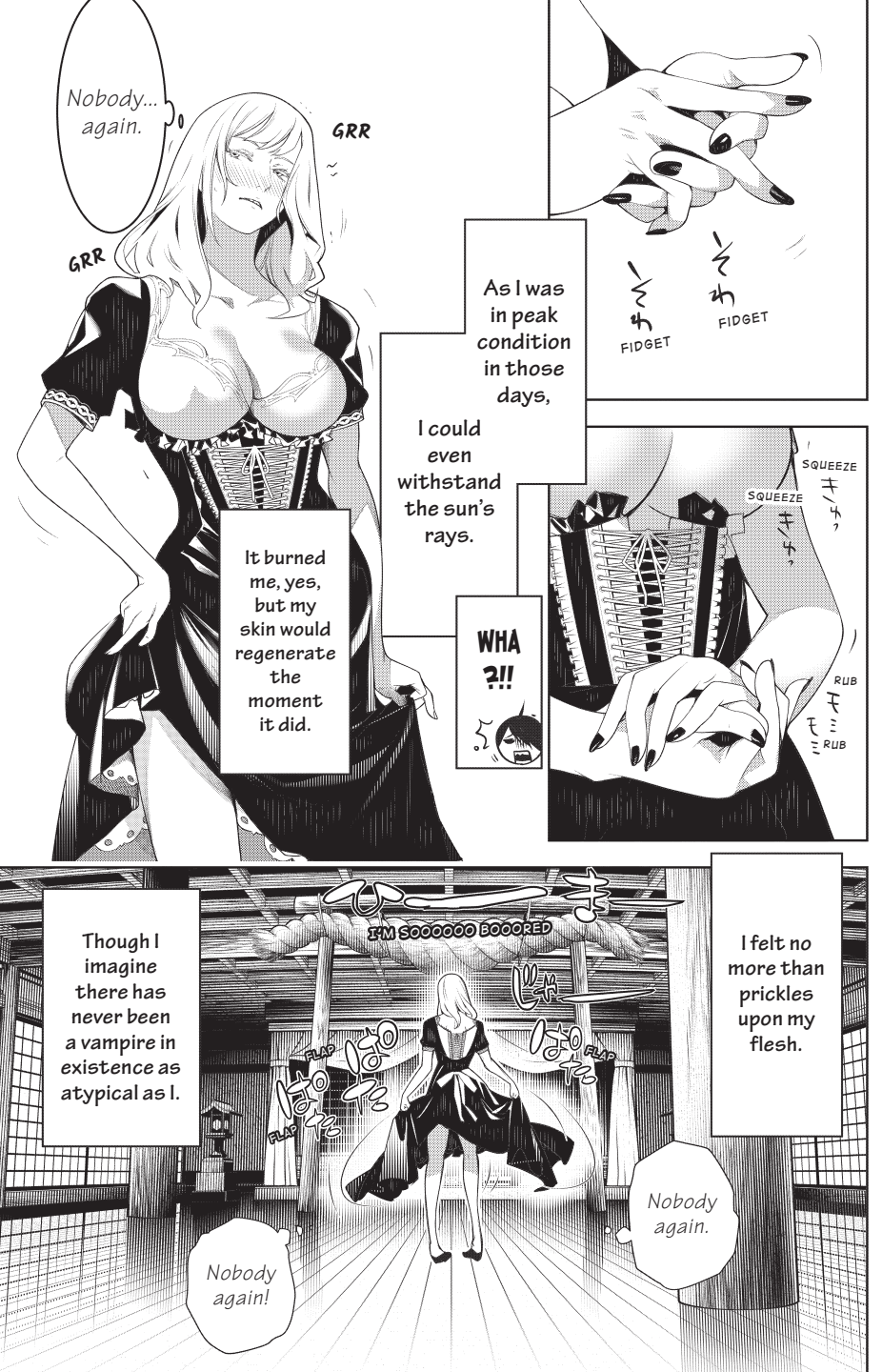
I...

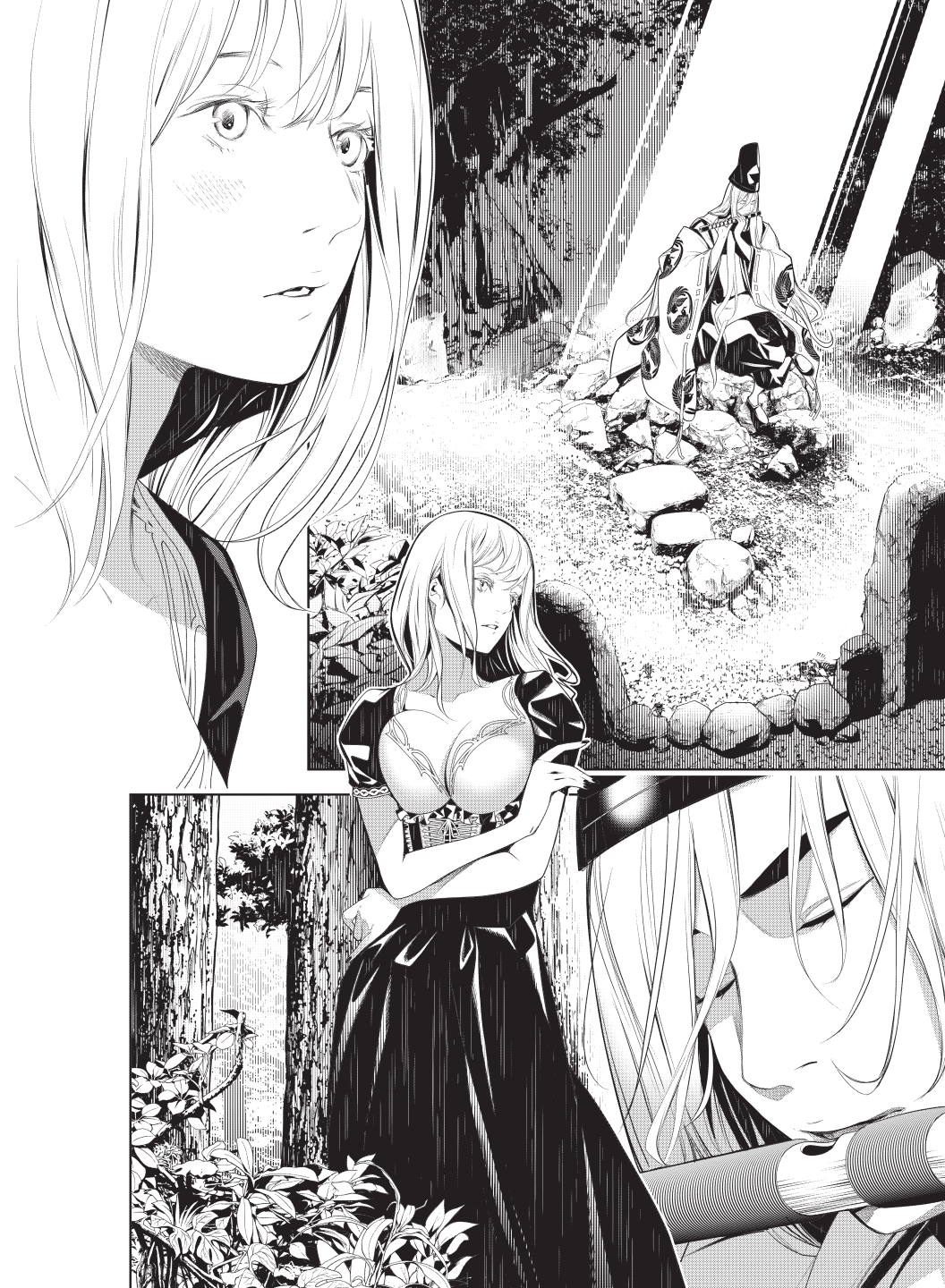
...slowly began to sense—a calamity.

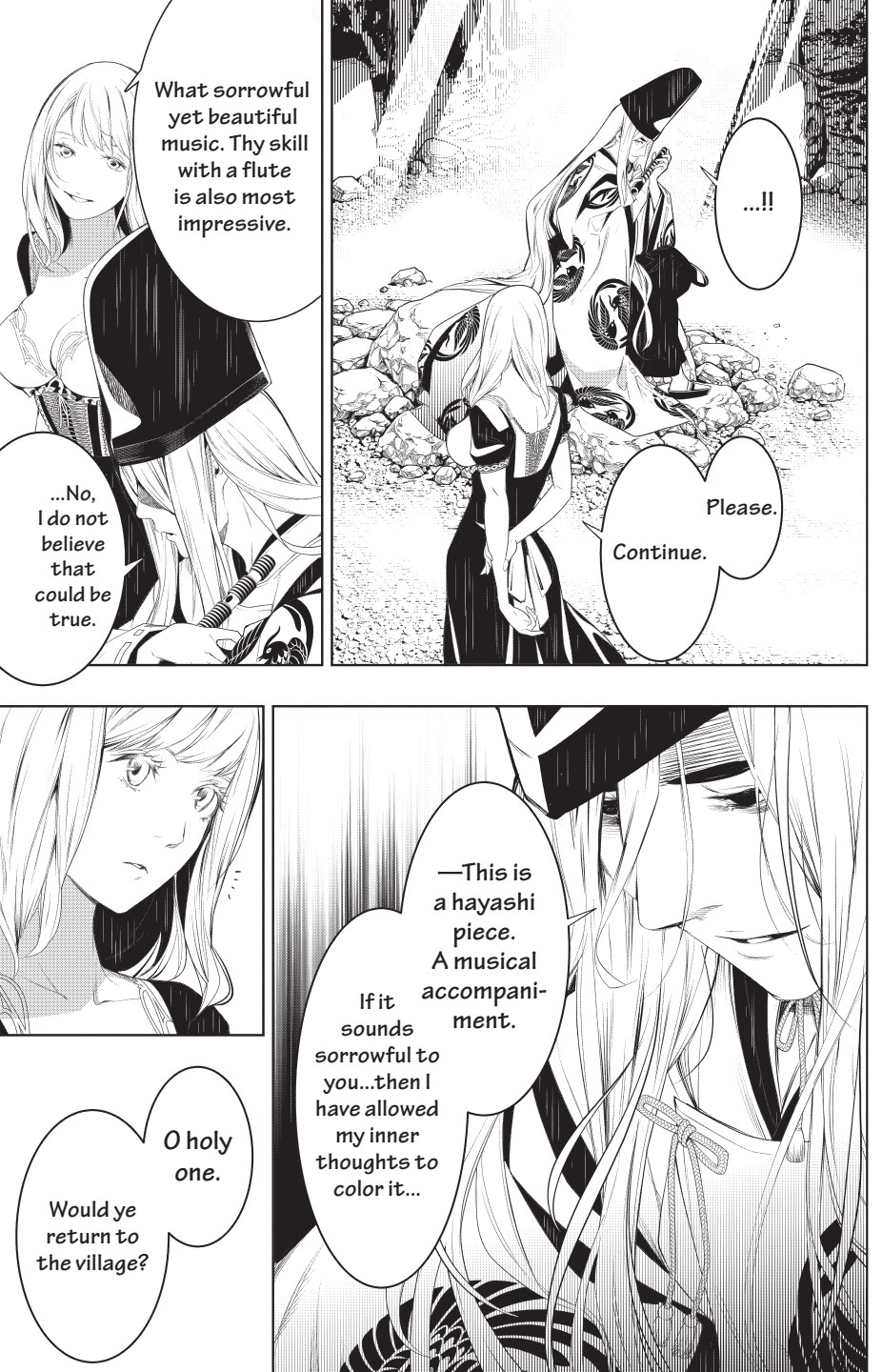
The number of villagers who came to me...

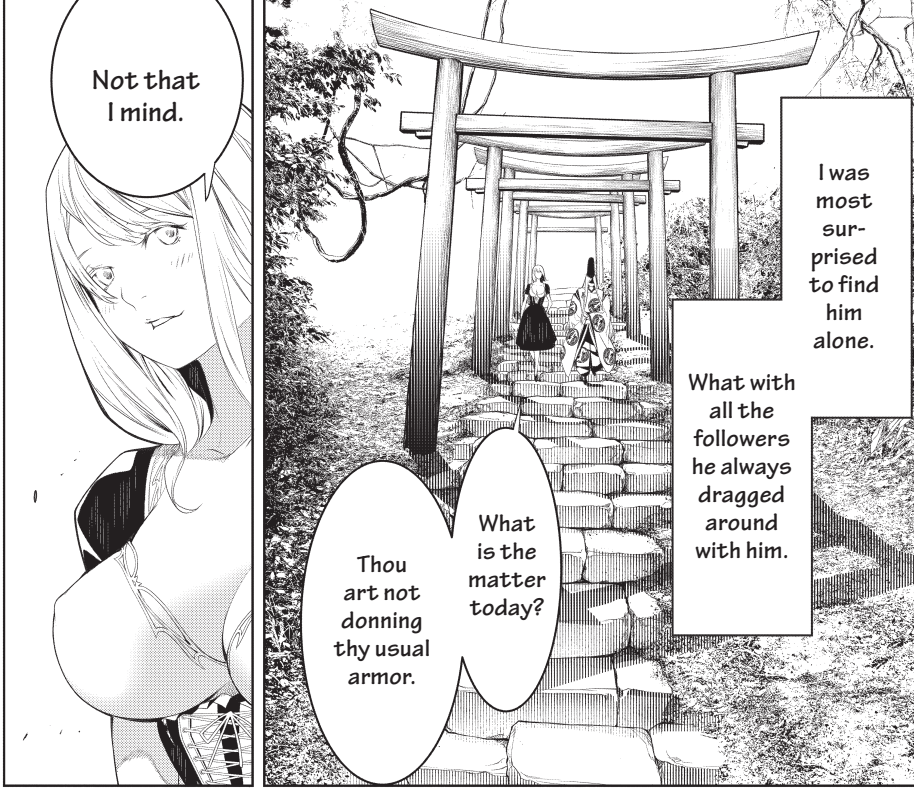
村人 Villagers

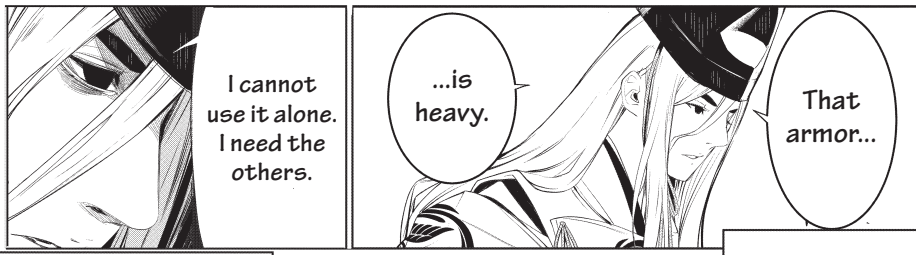
...was clearly waning.

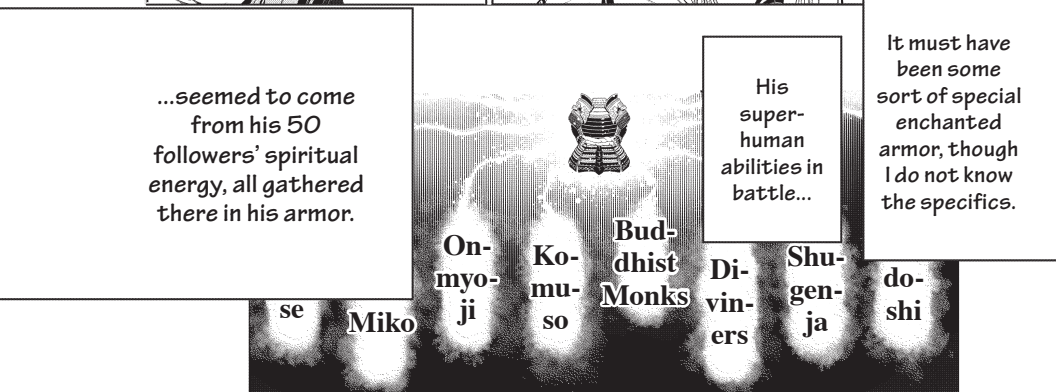

Nobody... again.
GRR
GRR
It burned me, yes, but my skin would regenerate the moment it did.
As I was in peak condition in those days,
I could even withstand the sun's rays.
WHA ?!!
FIDGET
FIDGET
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
RUB
RUB
I felt no more than prickles upon my flesh.
I'M SOOOOOO BOORED
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
Nobody again.
Nobody again!
Though I imagine there has never been a vampire in existence as atypical as I.




What sorrowful yet beautiful music. Thy skill with a flute is also most impressive.
...No, I do not believe that could be true.
...!!
Please. Continue.
—This is a hayashi piece. A musical accompaniment.
If it sounds sorrowful to you...then I have allowed my inner thoughts to color it...
O holy one.
Would ye return to the village?


Not that I mind.
I was most surprised to find him alone.
What with all the followers he always dragged around with him.
What is the matter today?
Thou art not donning thy usual armor.


I cannot use it alone. I need the others.
...is heavy.
That armor...


...seemed to come from his 50 followers' spiritual energy, all gathered there in his armor.
His super-human abilities in battle...
It must have been some sort of special enchanted armor, though I do not know the specifics.
se
Miko
On-myo-ji
Ko-mu-so
Bud-dhist Monks
Di-vin-ers
Shu-gen-ja
do-shi

Have ye noticed yet?
O divine one.
...and again I was surprised.
We returned to the village...
Every human had disappeared from the village...
...without leaving so much as a trace.
There is not a person here.

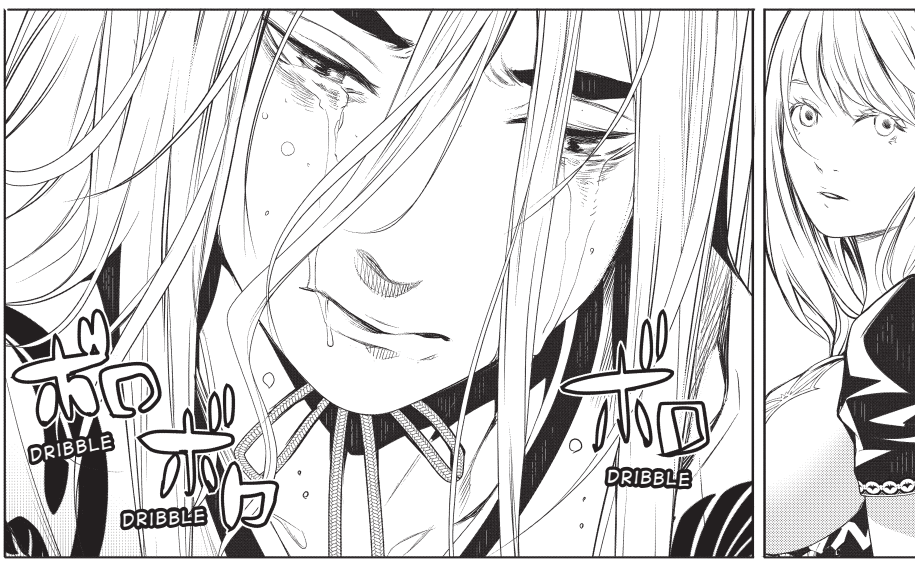
We considered and investigated every possibility.

—But it was for naught. We could not find a single clue.

The people had disappeared, not just from this village but also from all the surrounding villages.

Even his 50 followers.

—Every one of them.

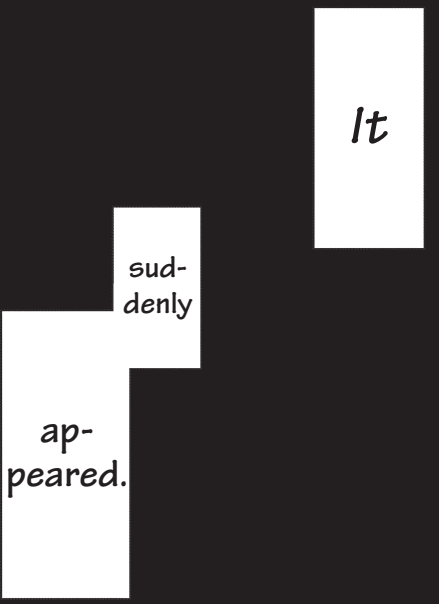


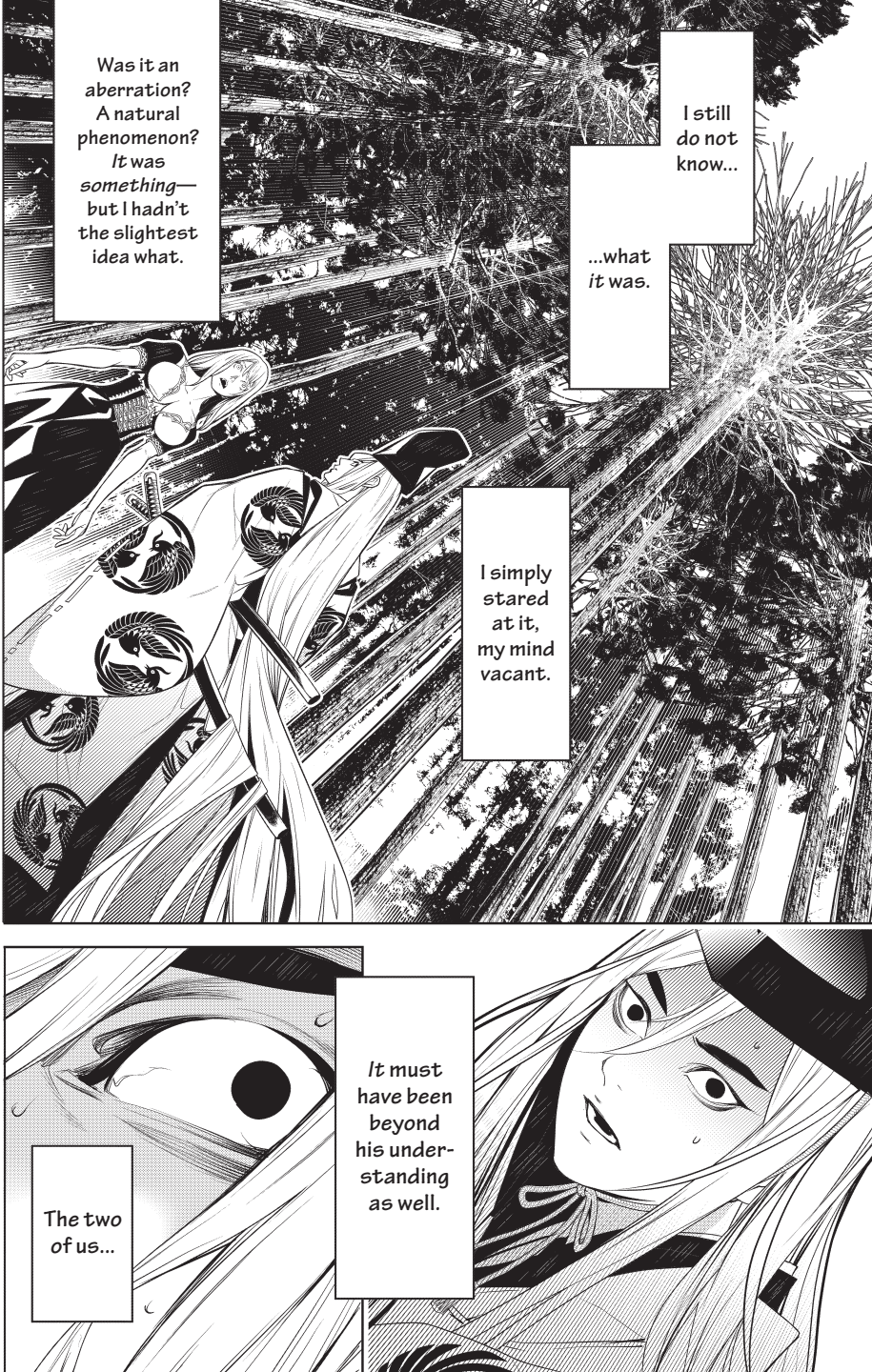
Spirited away.

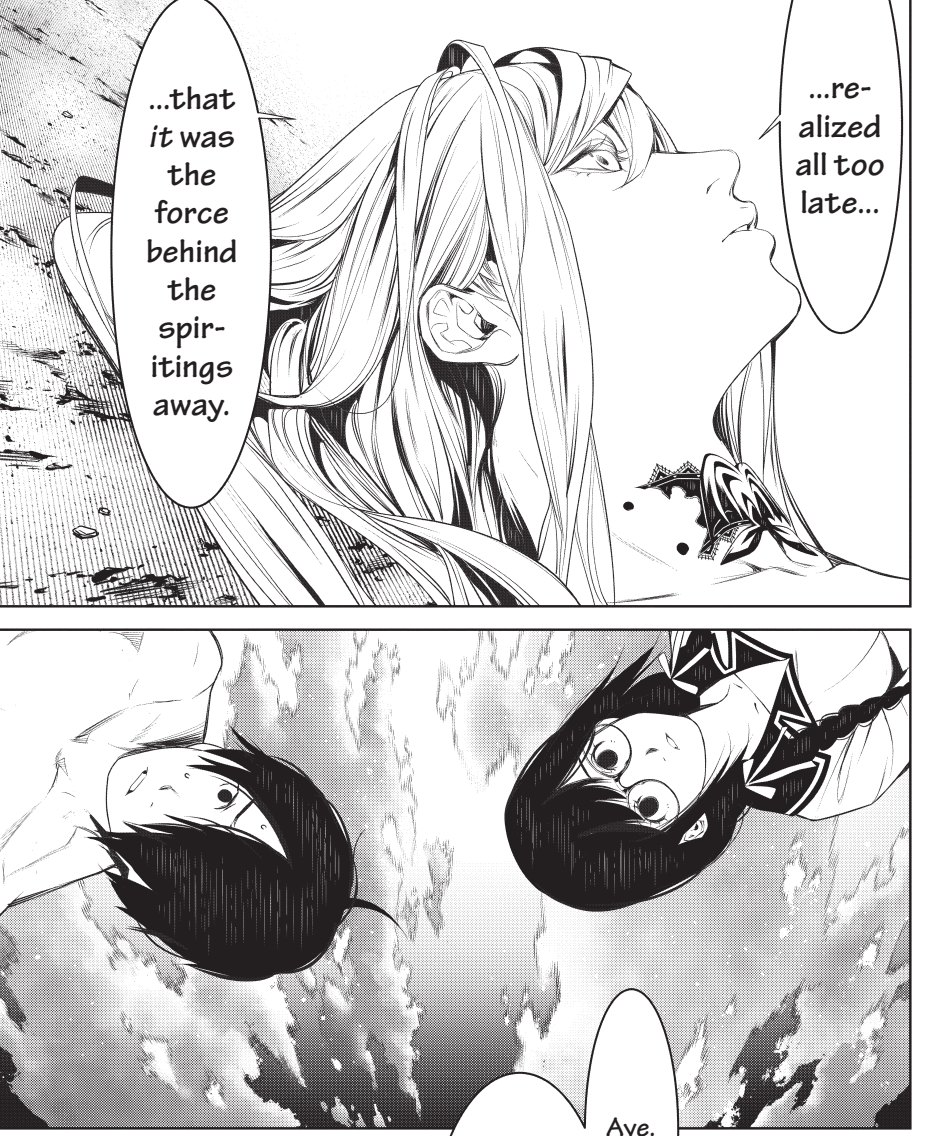
He must have been terribly upset by his own powerless-ness.

He had given himself over to depression —

YET I FOUND MYSELF DRIVEN UTTERLY MAD BY HIS ADORABLE STATE.
FLASH
IT IS WHAT THOU MIGHTST CALL "GAP MOE"!!
AGAIN, I NEVER TAUGHT YOU THAT TERM!!
?!
AAAA-AAAAAA-AAGH!!
In thy case, it is the bespectacled class president that —
...


It
sud-
denly
ap-
peared.

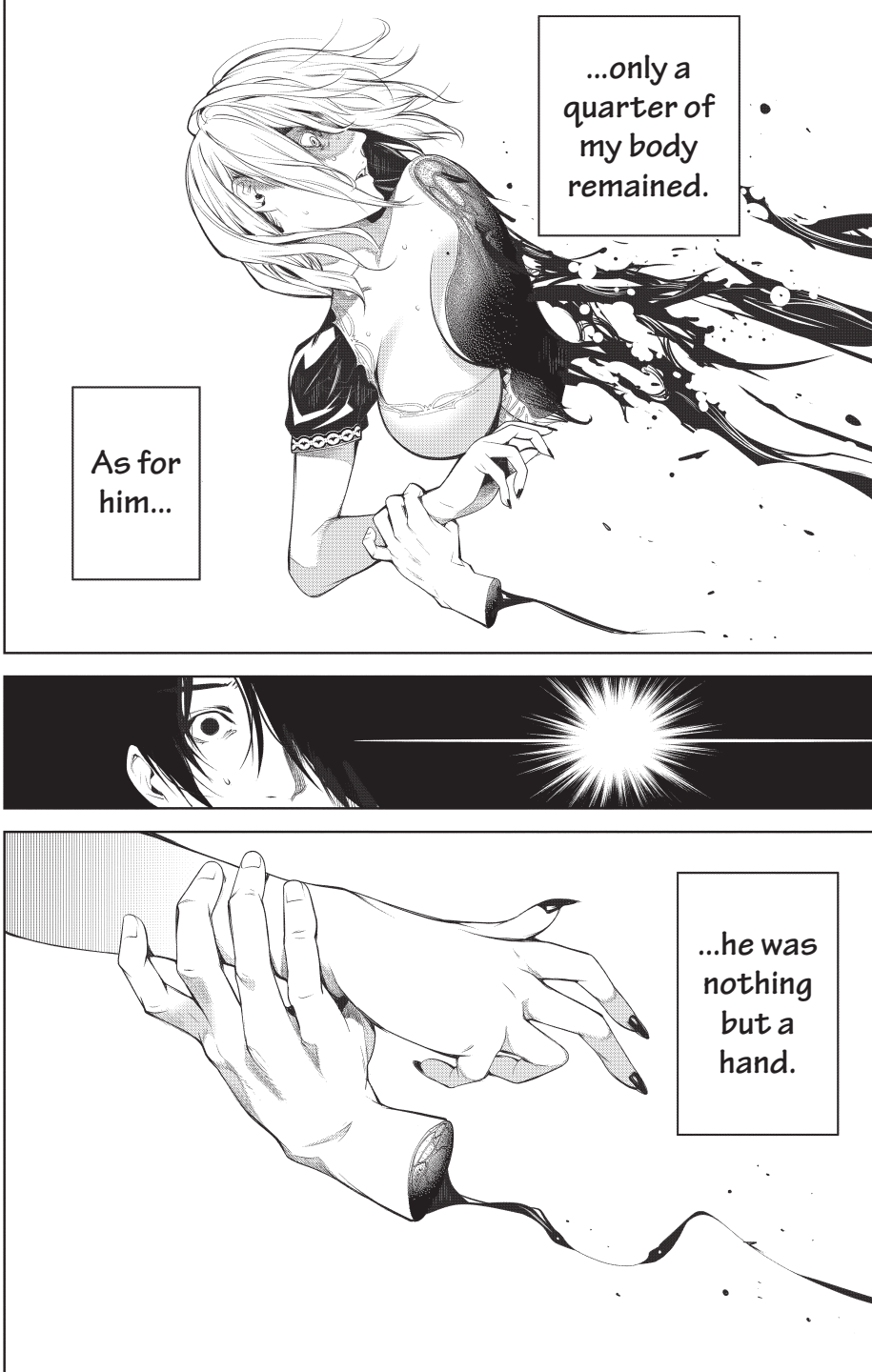

Was it an aberration? A natural phenomenon? *It* was *something*— but I hadn't the slightest idea what.
I still do not know...
...what *it* was.
I simply stared at it, my mind vacant.
It must have been beyond his understanding as well.
The two of us...

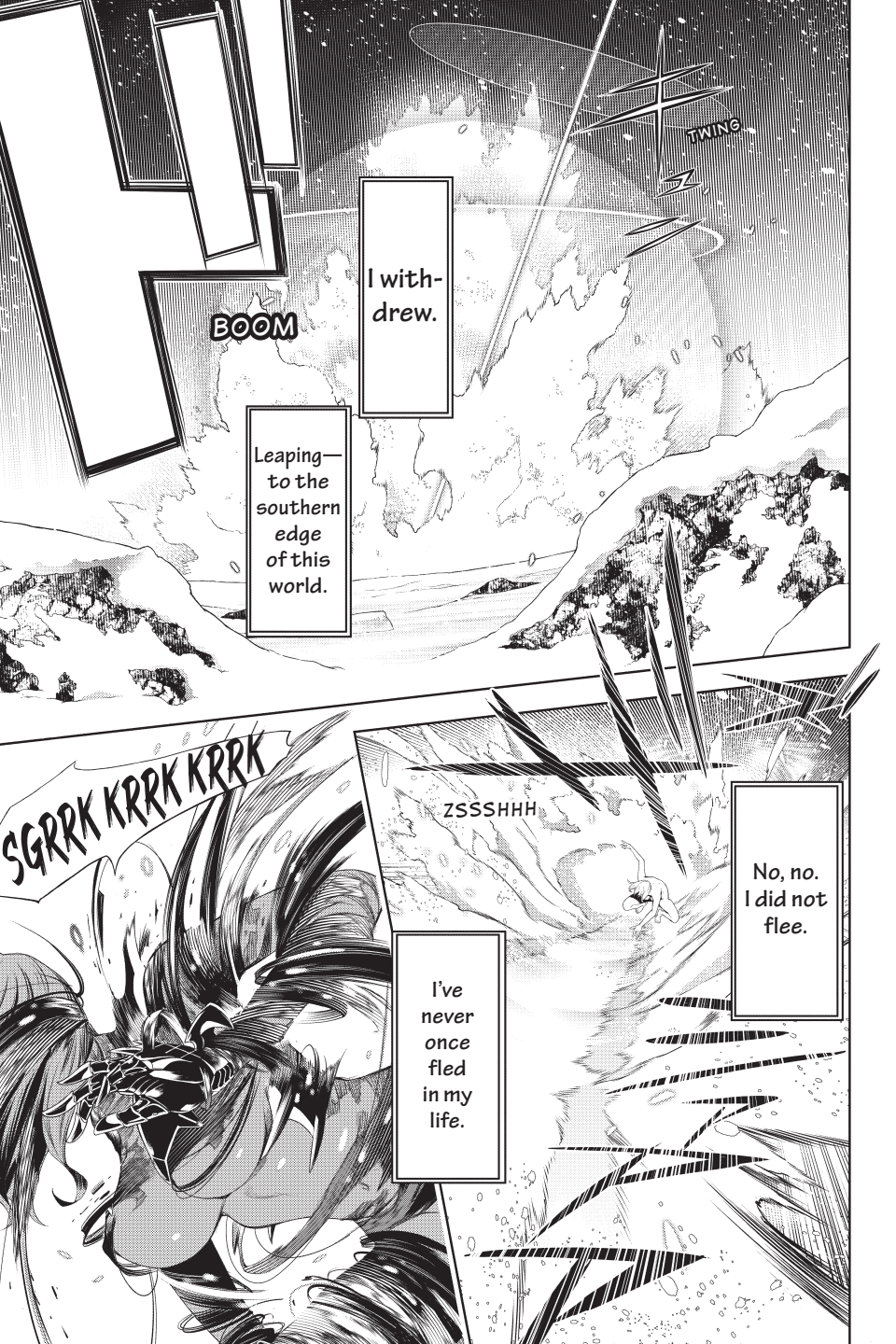


By the time we realized...

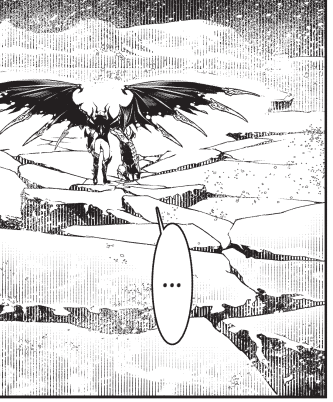
All too late— how could I describe it any other way.

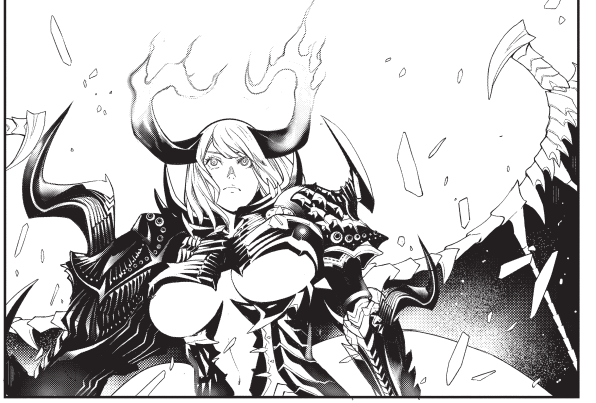
Aye.

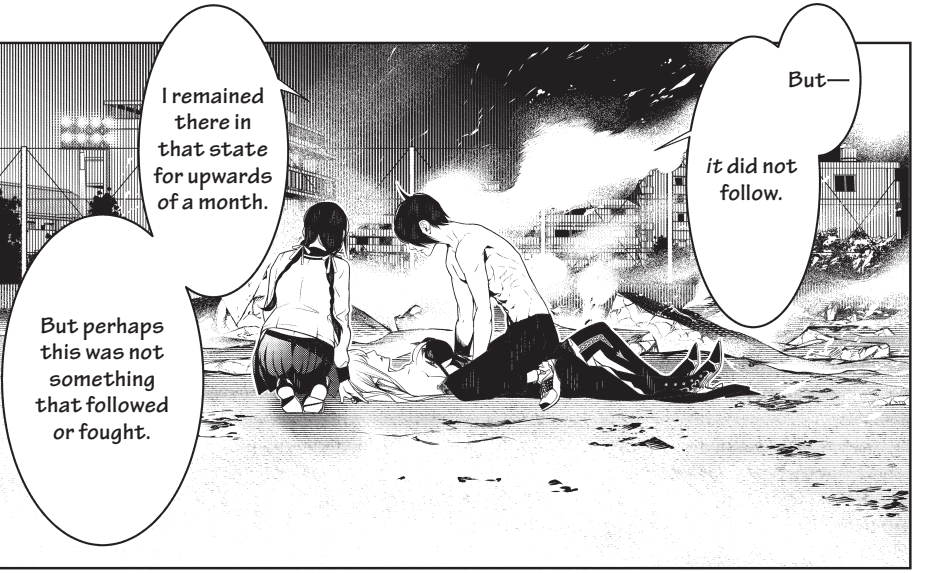

...only a quarter of my body remained.
As for him...


TWING
BOOM
I with-drew.
Leaping— to the southern edge of this world.
SGRRK KRRK KRRK
ZSSSHHH
No, no. I did not flee.
I've never once fled in my life.

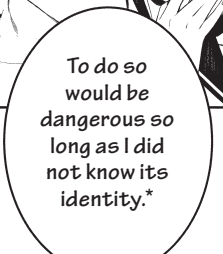
I wanted but a moment.
A moment to restore my consumed flesh and prepare myself for battle.
BA-GRAKK
BOOOM
THOOM
I may have even been excited— as I'd been starved of powerful foes.
But by no means did I fear it.
I may not have known what it was.
SCREEEAK
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRRK
KRRK
KRRK
KRRK



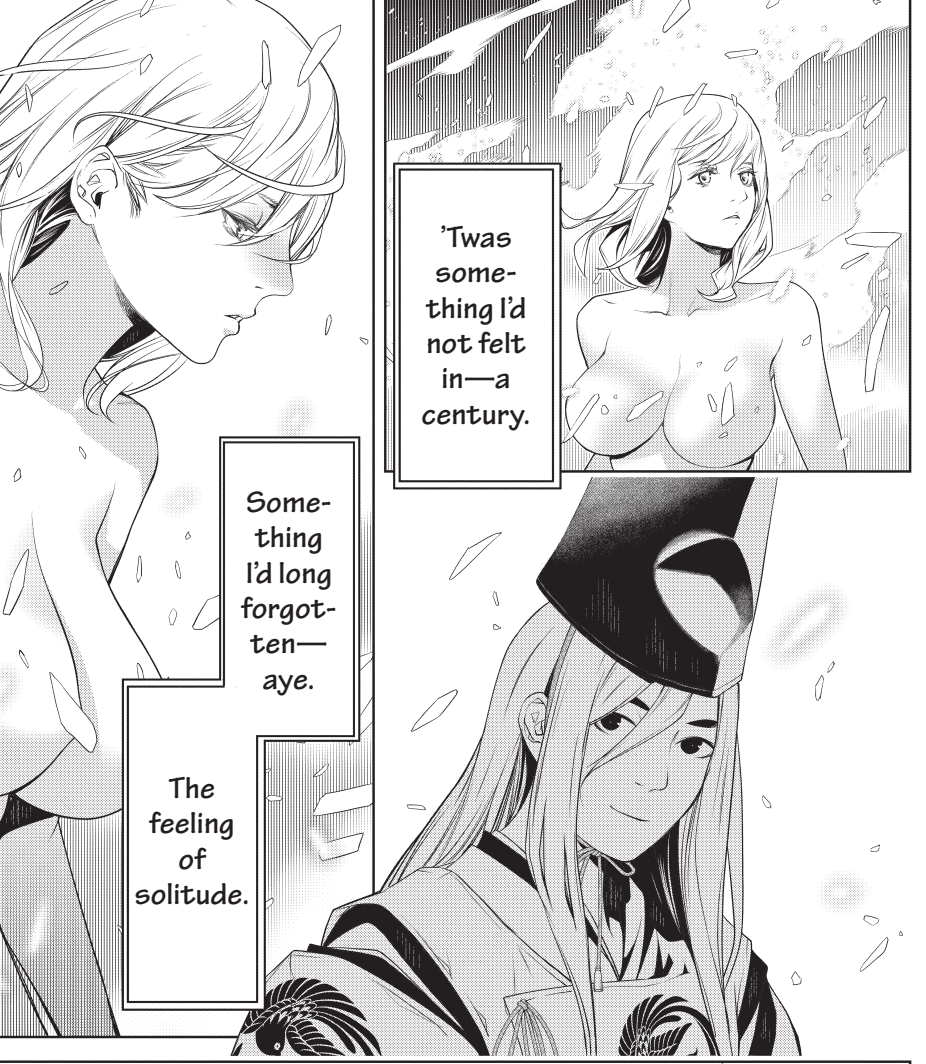




*See the *ONIMONOGATARI: Demon Tale* novel.

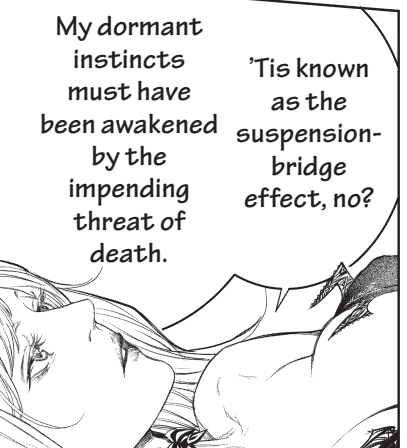


...I'd lost any reason...
...to return.

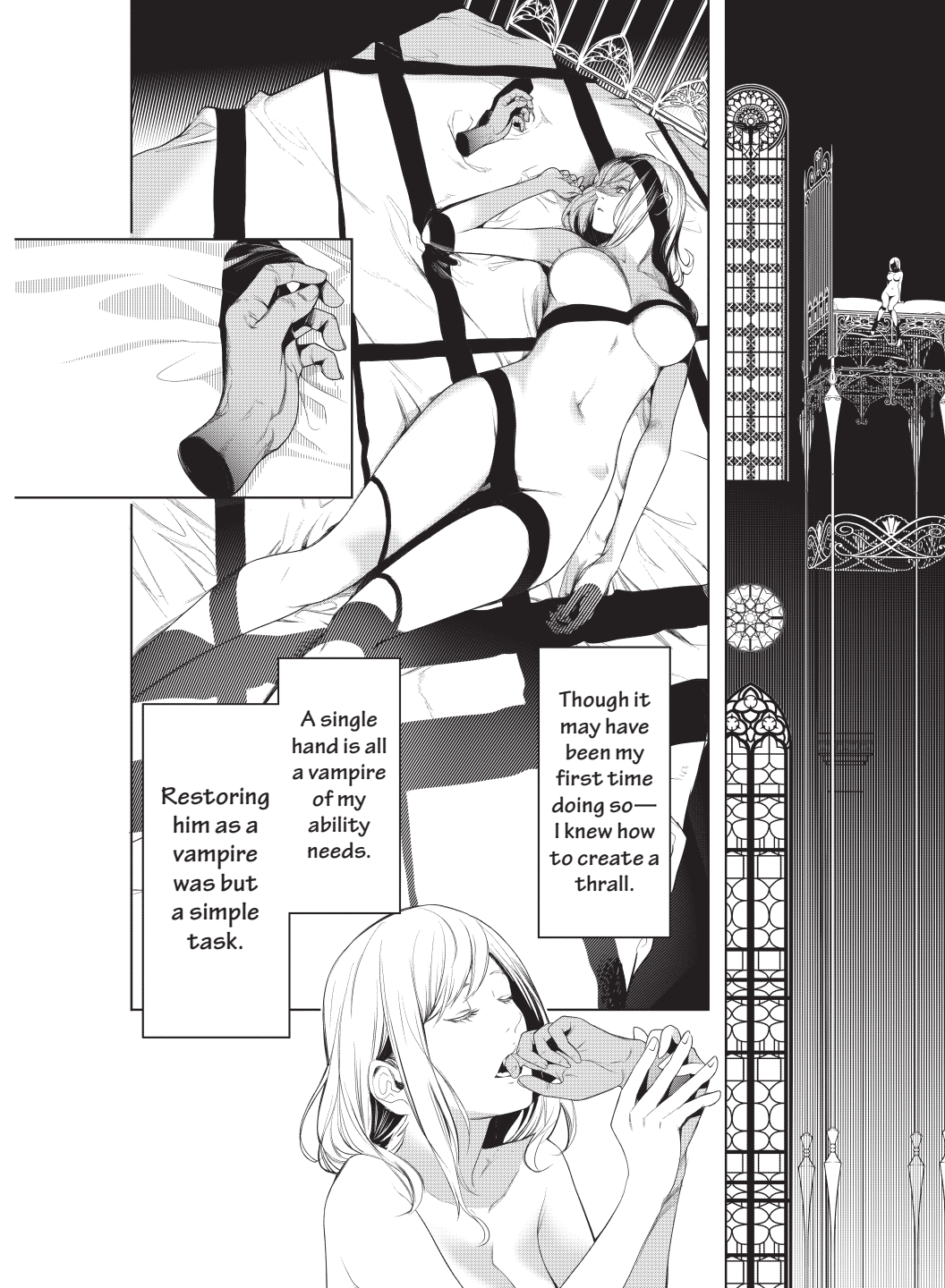

'Twas something I'd not felt in—a century.
Something I'd long forgotten—aye.
The feeling of solitude.

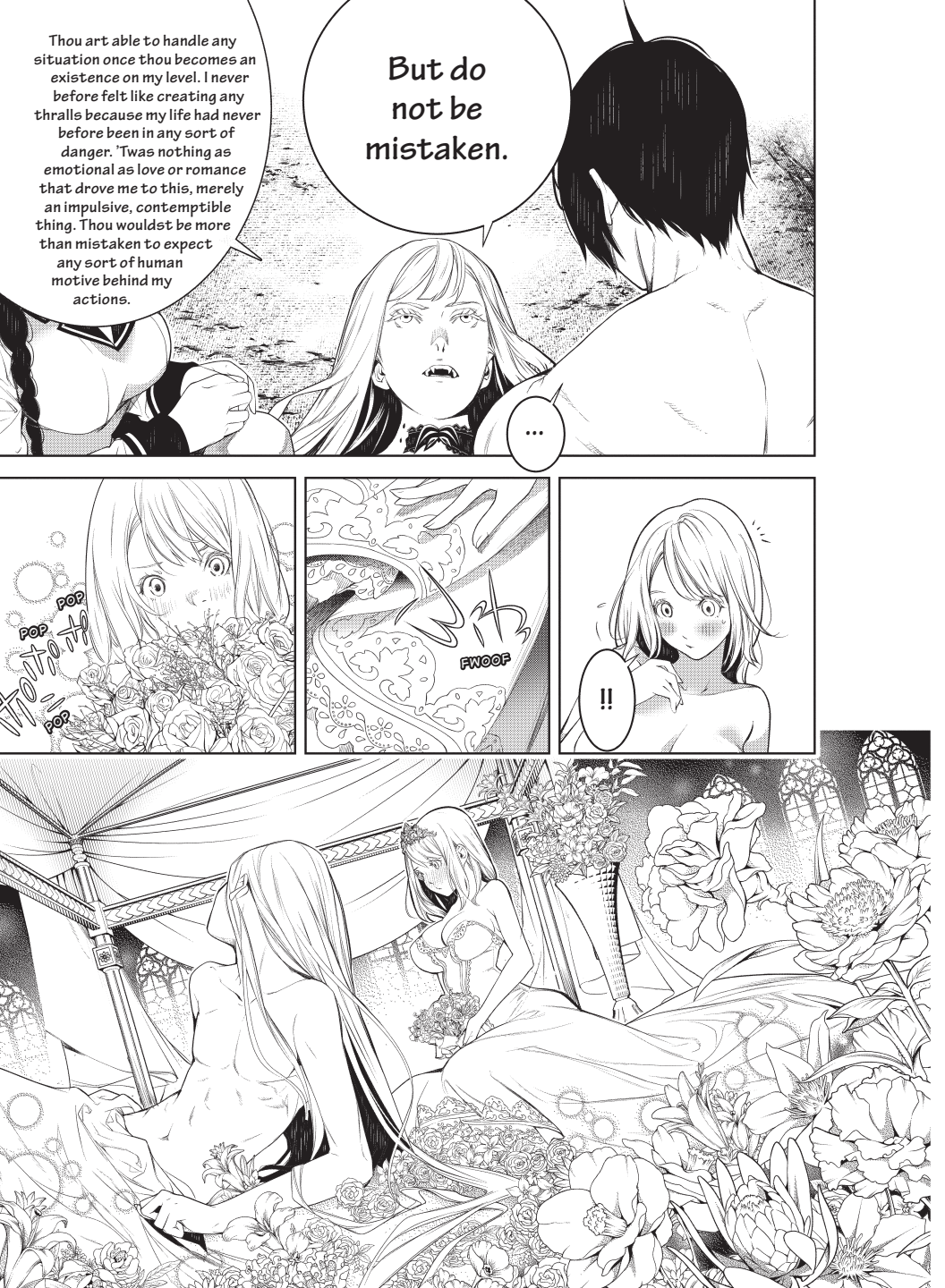
That I'd been left all alone.
That I'd lost—everything.

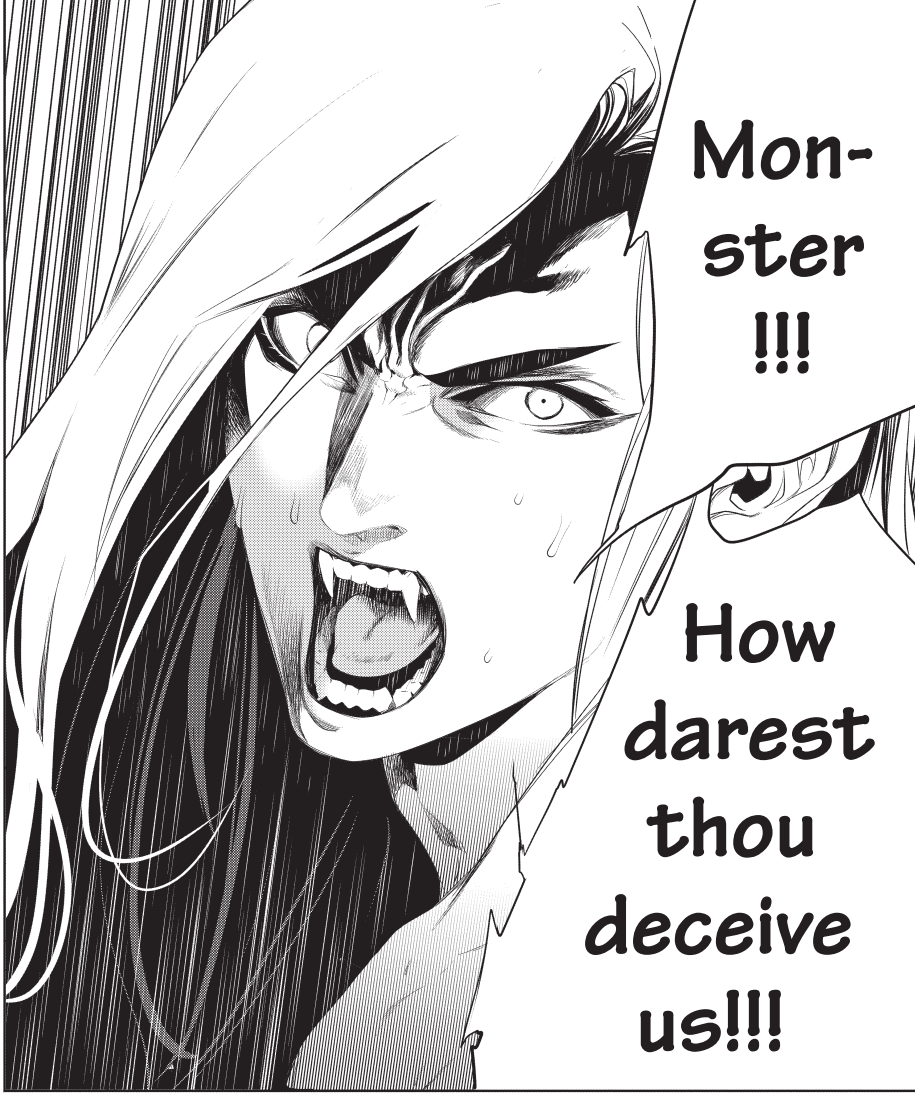
SNAP
SPLASH
KRAKL
SHHNK
GROOOAR
KRAK
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
ZWWM
ZWWM
ZWWM
ZWWM
BA-KRAK
BA-KRAK
BA-KRAK


My dormant instincts must have been awakened by the impending threat of death.
'Tis known as the suspension-bridge effect, no?

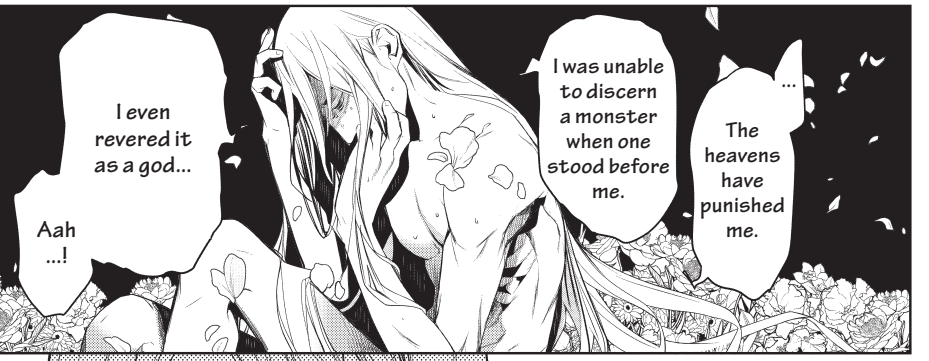
Elsa ?


Though it may have been my first time doing so— I knew how to create a thrall.
A single hand is all a vampire of my ability needs.
Restoring him as a vampire was but a simple task.


Thou art able to handle any situation once thou becomes an existence on my level. I never before felt like creating any thralls because my life had never before been in any sort of danger. 'Twas nothing as emotional as love or romance that drove me to this, merely an impulsive, contemptible thing. Thou wouldst be more than mistaken to expect any sort of human motive behind my actions.
But do not be mistaken.
...
POP
POP
POP
FWOOF
!!

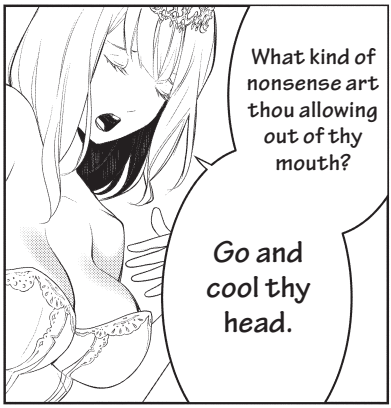

Mon-
ster
!!!
How
darest
thou
deceive
us!!!

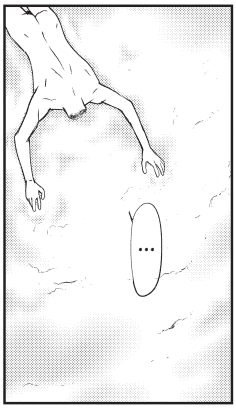
So it was all thy doing!!
Posing as a god to cause me and the villagers to lower our guard!
Eating us one by one whenever hunger struck!
I imagine that even my men fell prey to thy filthy hands!!

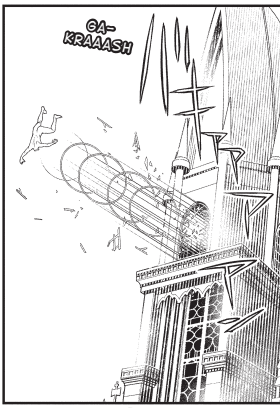

...
The heavens have punished me.
I was unable to discern a monster when one stood before me.
I even revered it as a god...
Aah ...!

Kneel before me, monster, for I will slay thee!!!

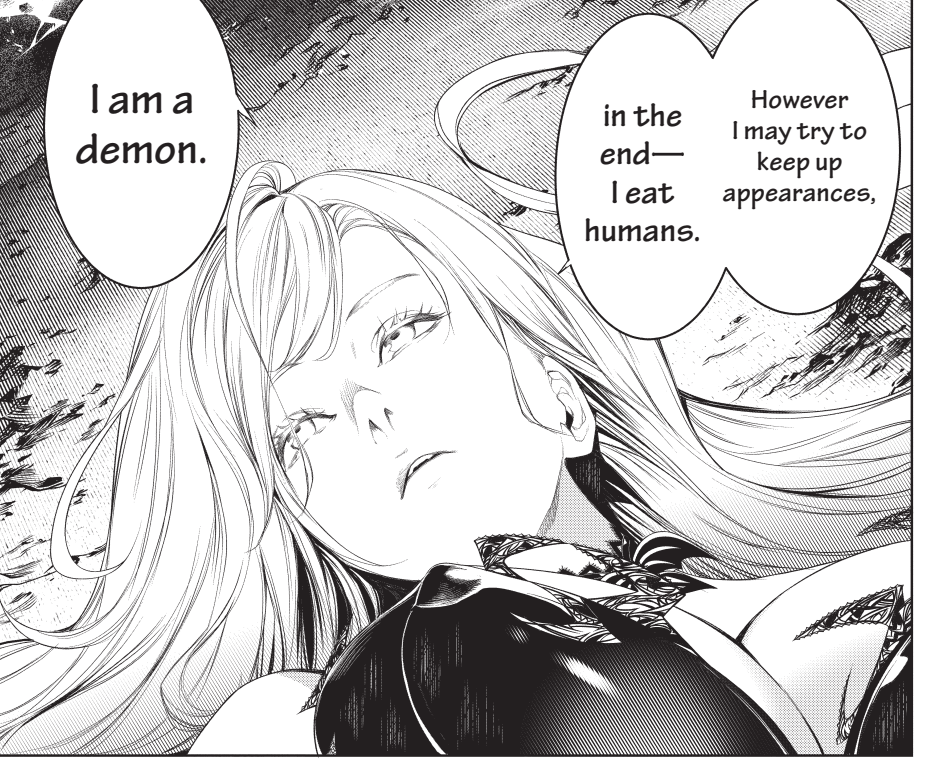
THWAP

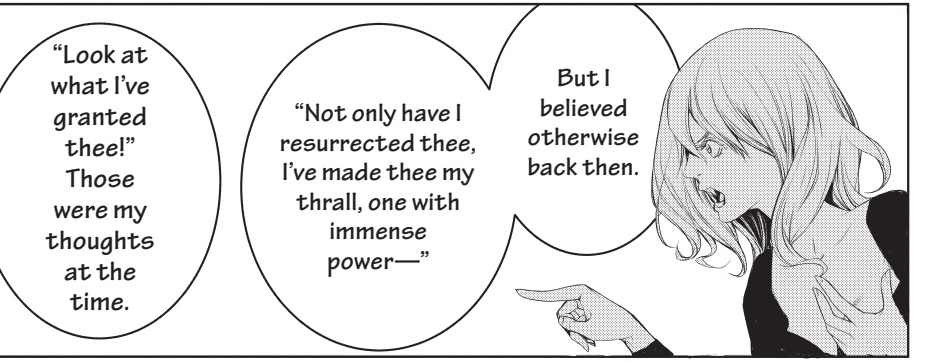

What kind of nonsense art thou allowing out of thy mouth?
Go and cool thy head.


...

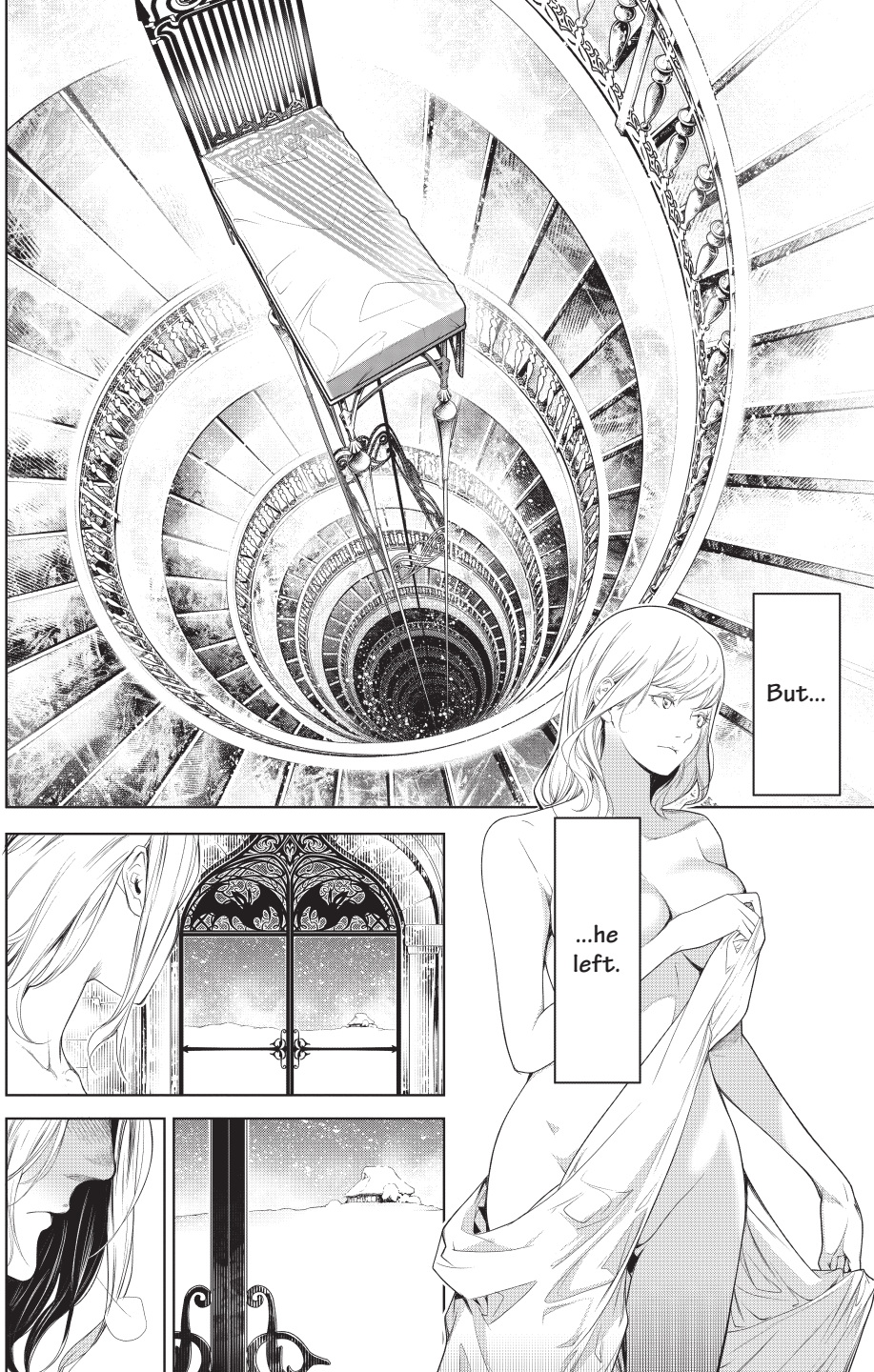

GA-KRAAASH

He was correct to say that I had deceived him.
No.
...he remained mistaken.
But ...


However I may try to keep up appearances,
in the end— I eat humans.
I am a demon.


But I believed otherwise back then.
"Not only have I resurrected thee, I've made thee my thrall, one with immense power—"
"Look at what I've granted thee!" Those were my thoughts at the time.

I remained as calm as possible.
GA-KRAAASH
I tried to speak with him again and again.

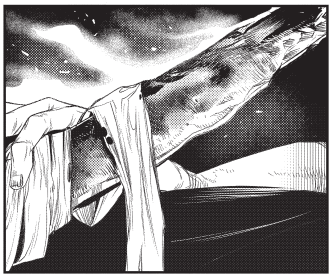

But...
...he left.

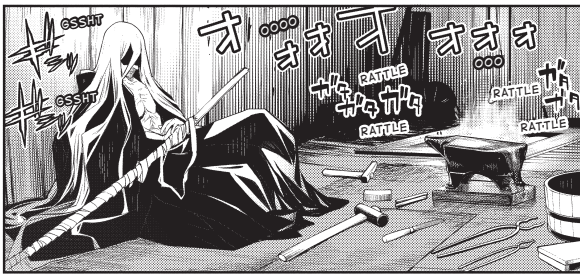
Yet...
BOOM
...once he grew hungry...
CHOMPP
SPLOOOSH
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
He could not help but return to eat me.

GRIND
RIP
RIP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
POWK
GRIND
MUNCH
MUNCH
SPLAT
SPLAT
I always allowed him to eat as he wished.
He so obstinately refused to eat humans,
and I could not summon an interest in traveling to a populated land.

SQUEEZE
BA-KRAK
SPLAT
THOK
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
As he continued to eat me,
I grew weaker and weaker.
My wounds healed slower... and the light of the sun began to burn my body.
...

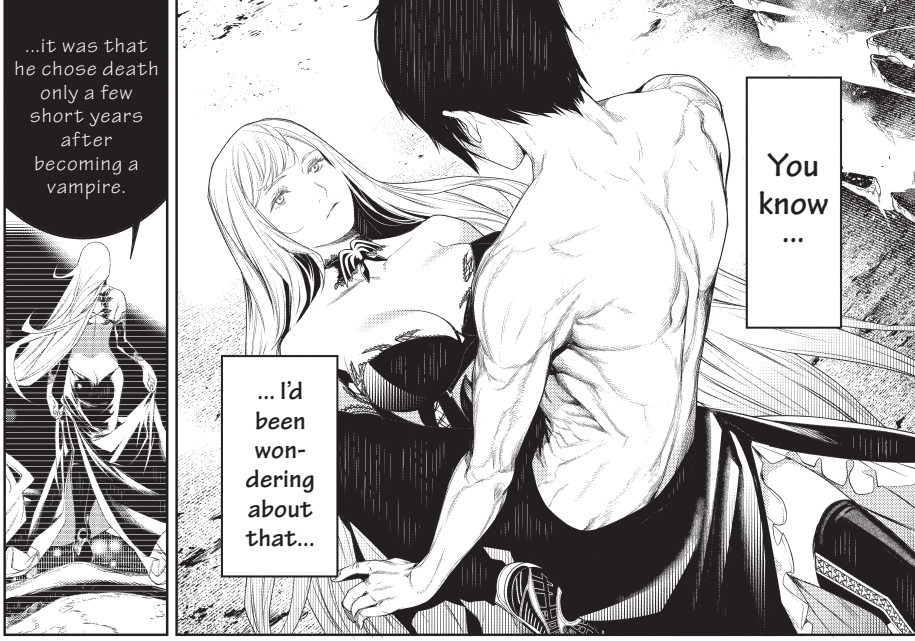
HOOOWL

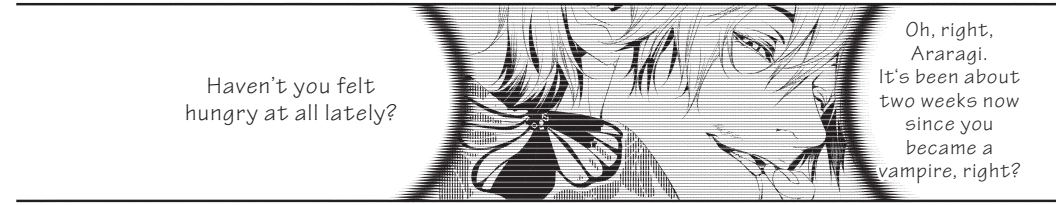


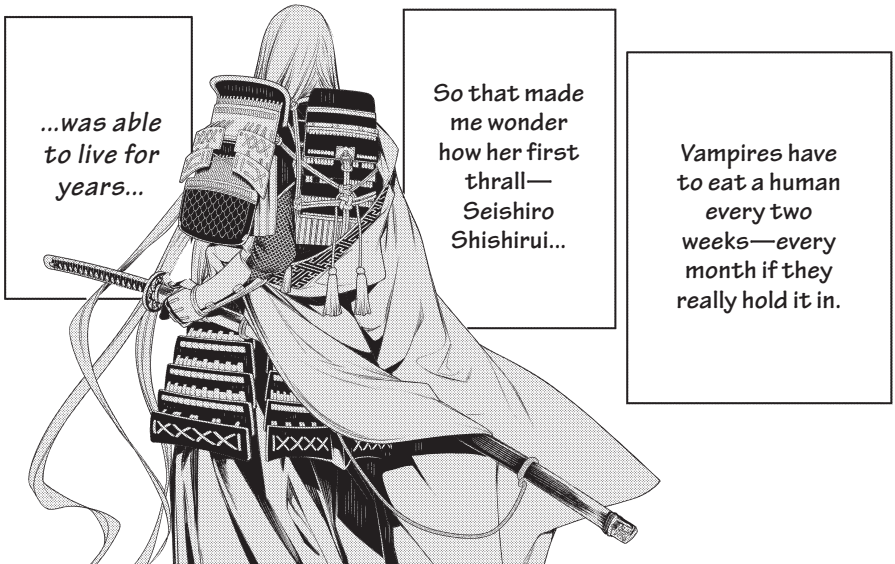

OSSHT
OSSHT
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

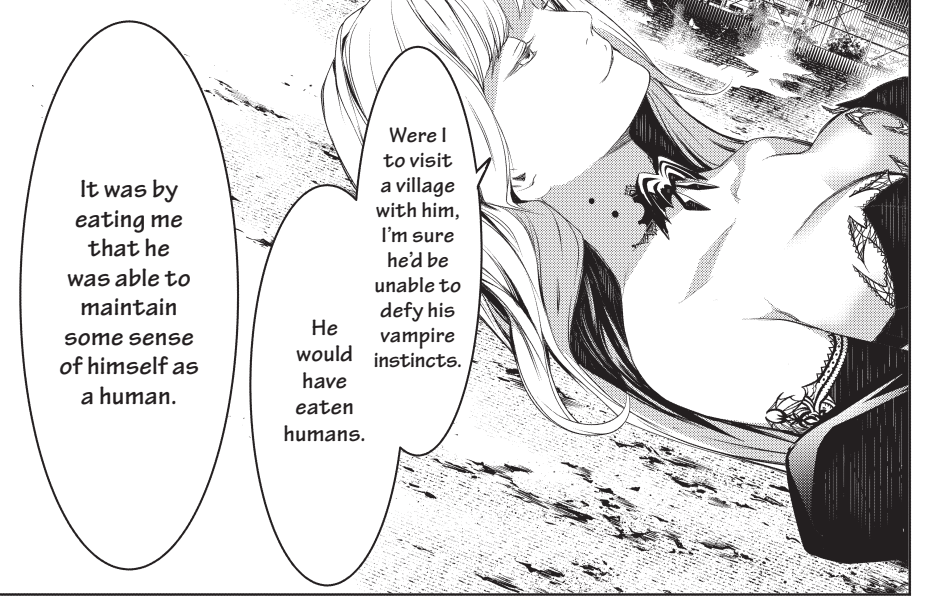
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL

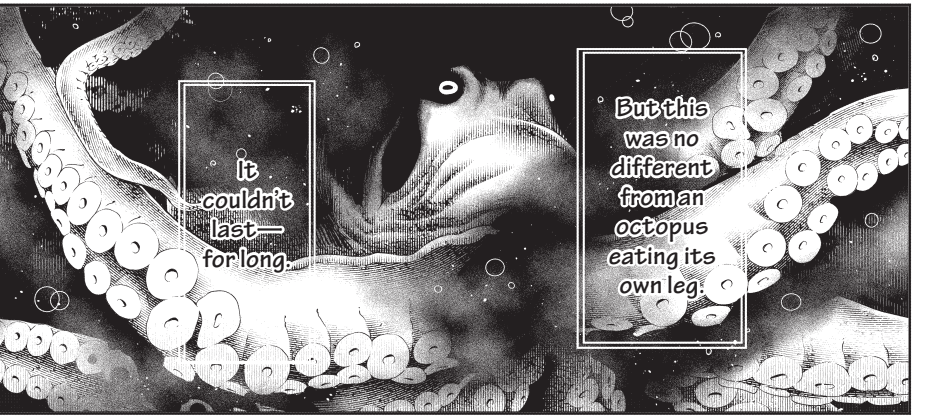
BAKEMONOGATARI

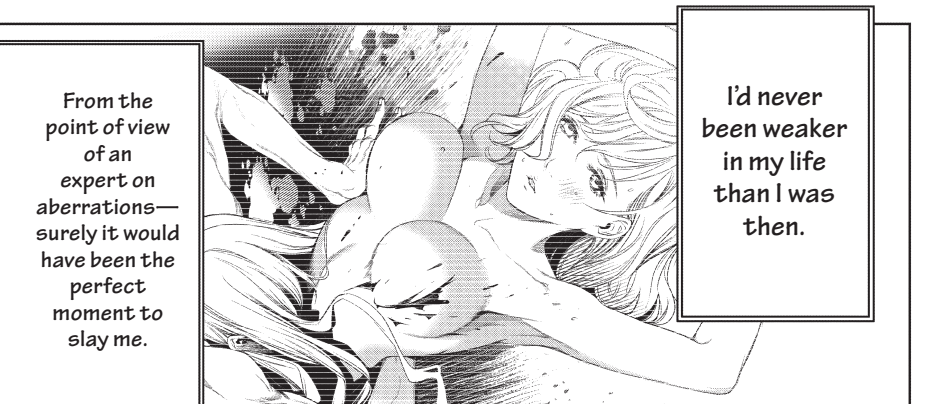

...it was that he chose death only a few short years after becoming a vampire.
You know ...
... I'd been wondering about that...


Haven't you felt hungry at all lately?
Oh, right, Araragi. It's been about two weeks now since you became a vampire, right?


...was able to live for years...
So that made me wonder how her first thrall—Seishiro Shishirui...
Vampires have to eat a human every two weeks—every month if they really hold it in.


It was by eating me that he was able to maintain some sense of himself as a human.
He would have eaten humans.
Were I to visit a village with him, I'm sure he'd be unable to defy his vampire instincts.

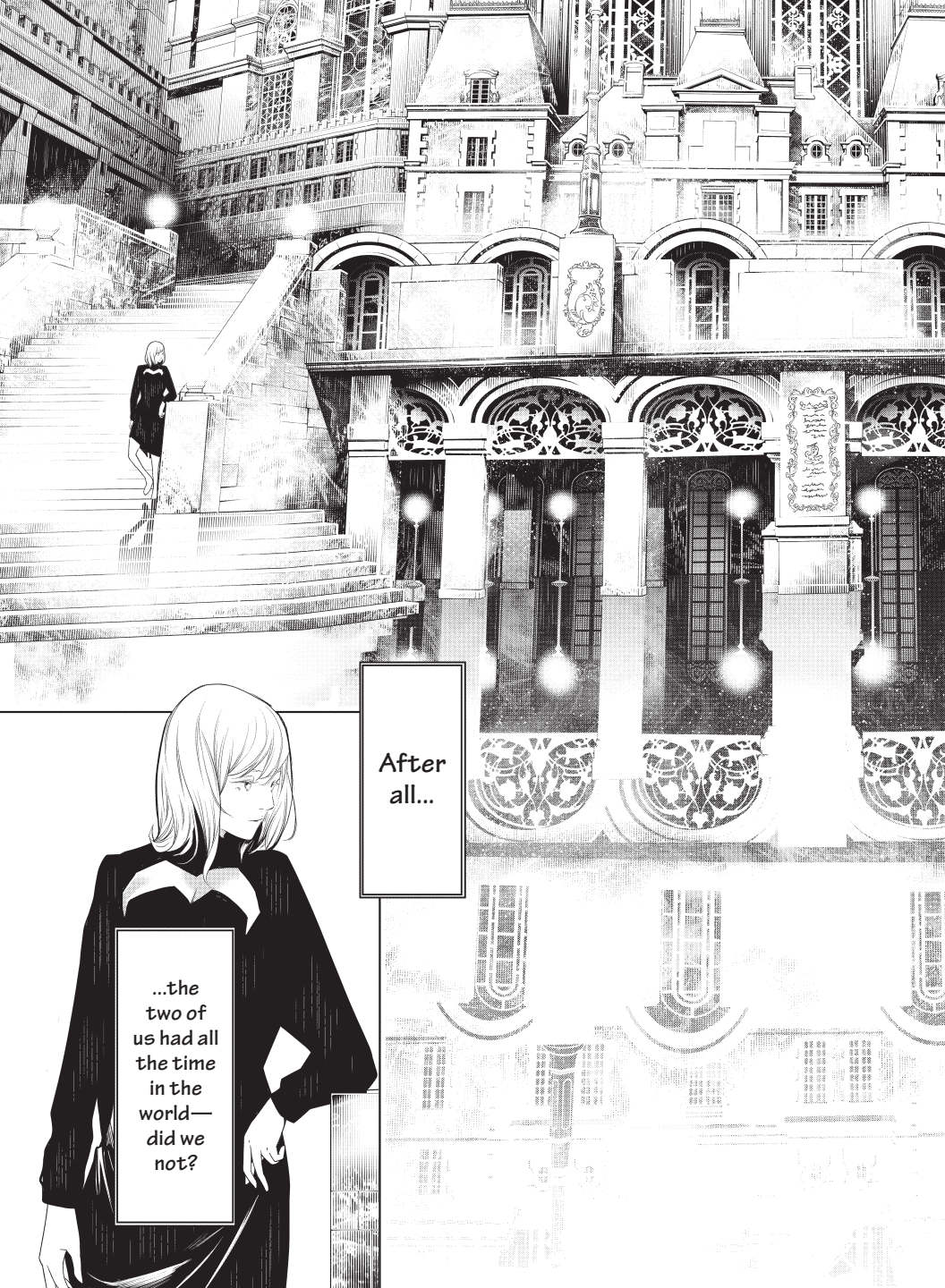

It couldn't last— for long.
But this was no different from an octopus eating its own leg.

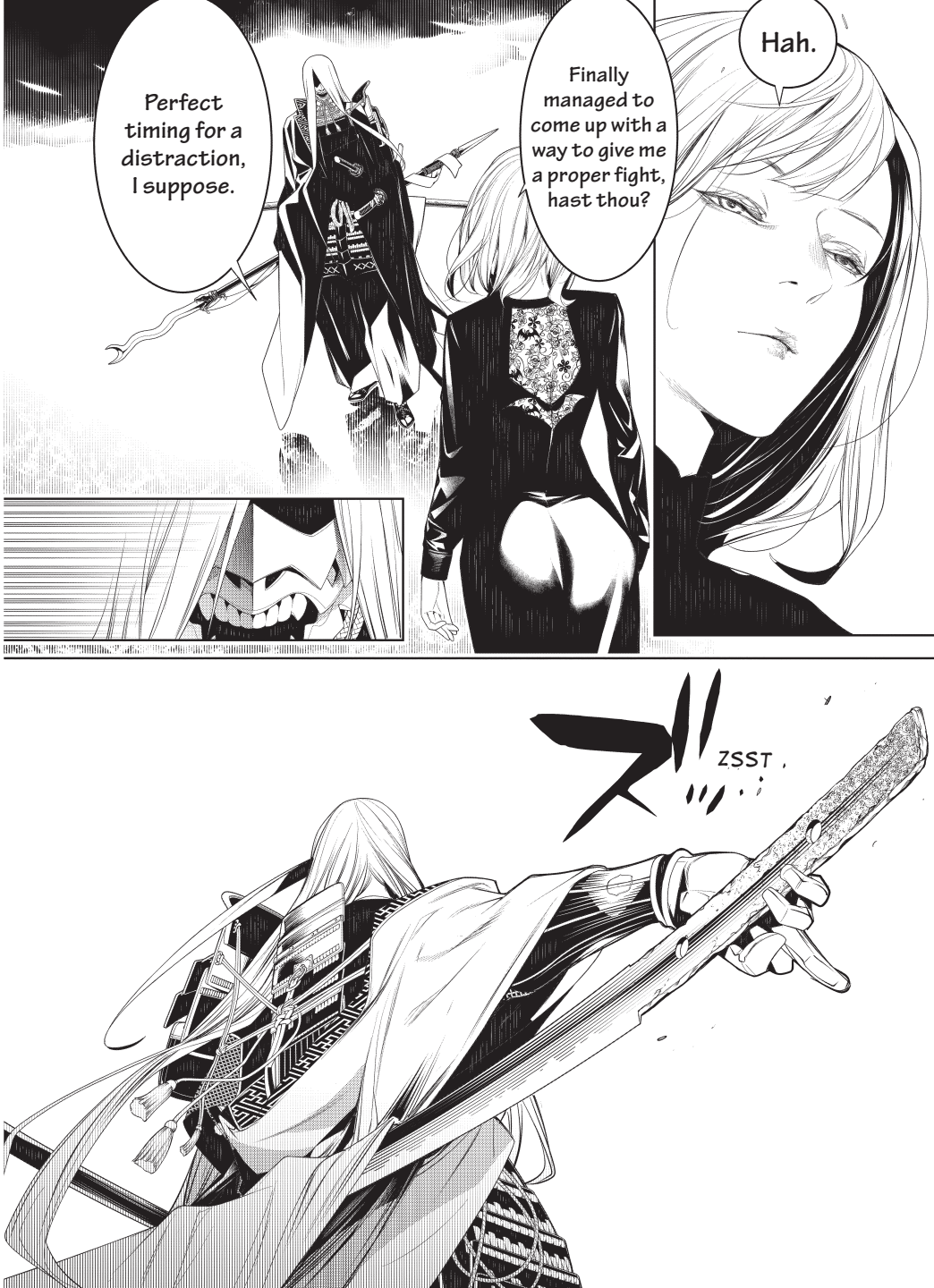

From the point of view of an expert on aberrations— surely it would have been the perfect moment to slay me.
I'd never been weaker in my life than I was then.

ZSSHT
GSSHRK
GSSHRK
GSSHRK
TWITCH
TWITCH
KLATTER
But when he came here,
he'd lost the only artifact capable of cutting me down.
The "Aberration Slayer"—the enchanted blade Kokorowatari.
THUNK
KLANK
KLATTER

SZZZZ
It took him years, but he created a replica of Kokorowatari.
Repeating the process—hundreds, thousands of times.
And so he continued to burn his bones and flesh, forging them time and time again.
The only reason he clung to life to the point of eating me...
...was in order...
...to complete this blade.

But even after all this...
...I could not see him for who he was then.
He was confused, merely agitated.
Time would eventually solve all problems — that is what I believed.


After all...
...the two of us had all the time in the world—did we not?


Perfect timing for a distraction, I suppose.
Finally managed to come up with a way to give me a proper fight, hast thou?
Hah.
ZSST

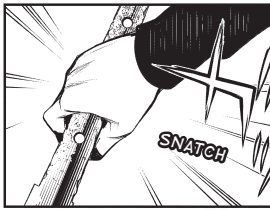
KA-SHIIING
?!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!
HAST THOU NOT FORGED THIS BLADE IN ORDER TO CUT ME DOWN?!
HAST THOU NOT COME HERE TO SETTLE THY GRUDGE?!

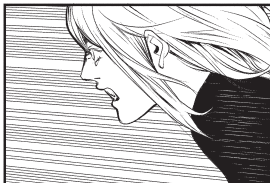
Thou art weak.
SNAP
Eh?
PA-KRAKK
That blade is a parting gift from me.
Use it as thou wisht.
For thou wilt meet a quick death without it.

SHINE
SIZZZ
AGH !!
BAM
How dull...
...monsters are.
BWOOF
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
I've lost my ancestral duty.
My comrades.
My humanity.
Even my reason to go on living.

Live in this hell.
Suffer for all of eternity, writhing in solitude.

LEST I CUT THEE DOWN!
RE-TURN!
RETURN TO ME!


SNATCH

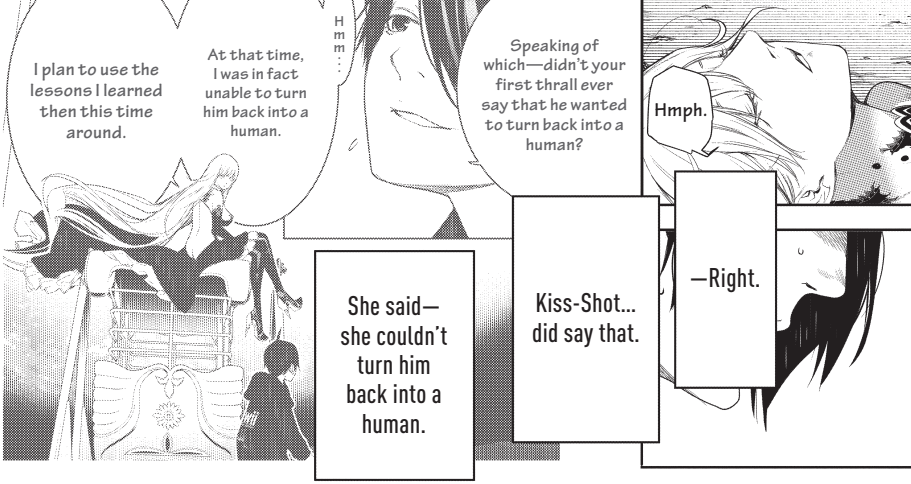


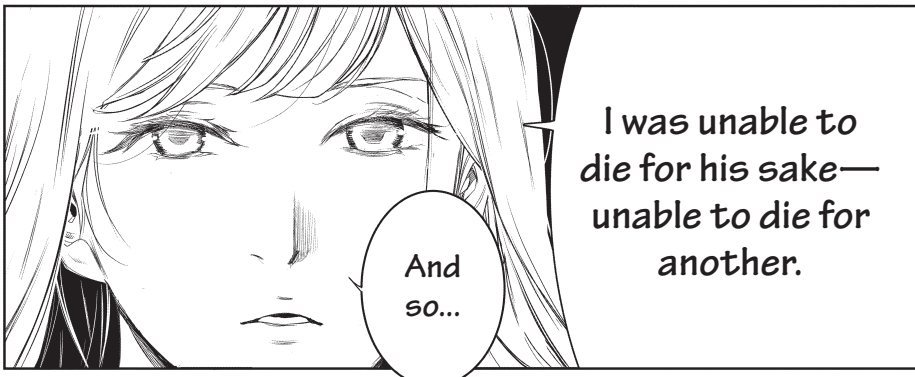
SEISHIROOO...!!!!

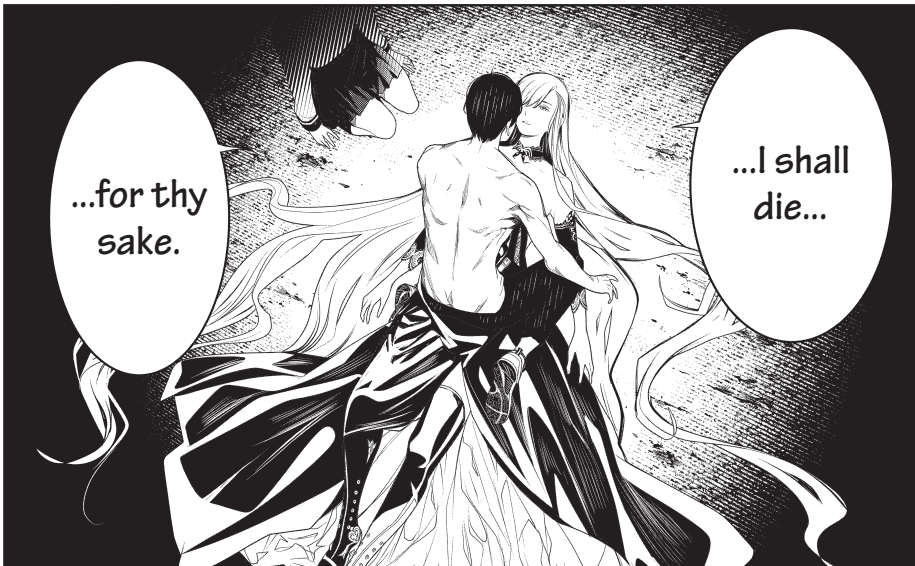
P
FULL

HOOONK
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG

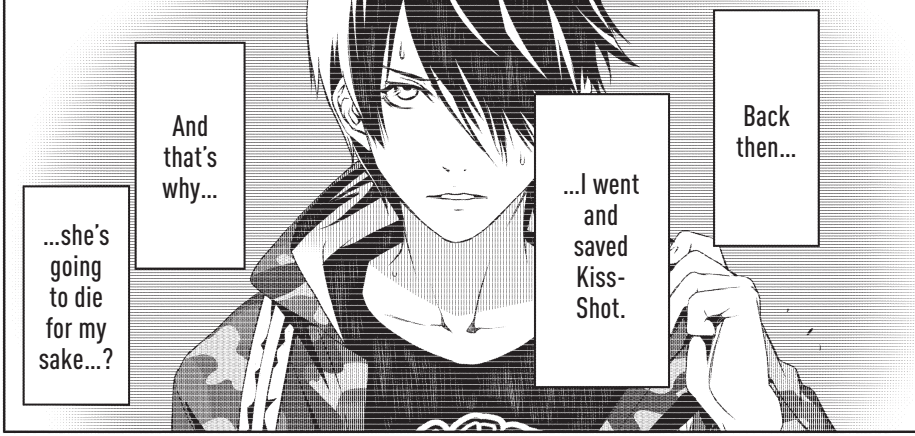
Deep down ...
...you understand, don't you?
Miss Heart-Under-Blade—
that what Mister Seishiro did...
...was *save you.*
As long as he kept refusing to eat humans,
you— wouldn't eat them either.
So before the two of you starved to death together— he decided for himself...


I plan to use the lessons I learned then this time around.
At that time, I was in fact unable to turn him back into a human.
Hmm...
Speaking of which—didn't your first thrall ever say that he wanted to turn back into a human?
Hmph.
—Right.
Kiss-Shot... did say that.
She said—she couldn't turn him back into a human.


I was unable to die for his sake—unable to die for another.
And so...

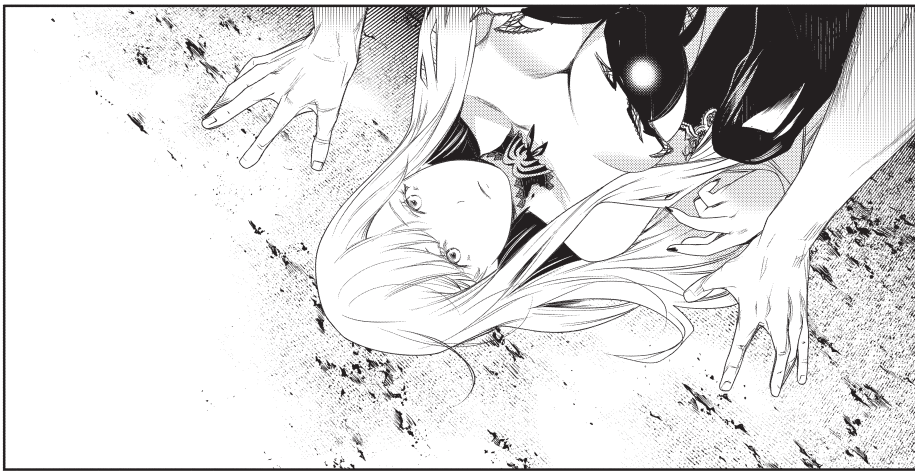

...I shall die...
...for thy sake.

I shall have thee kill me, restoring thy humanity...
...whilst dying at last.
I decided I would die for the sake of my servant.
...
...
For...
...my sake.
But at last...
I'd wandered aimlessly— for 400 years.
... I've discovered— a place to die.

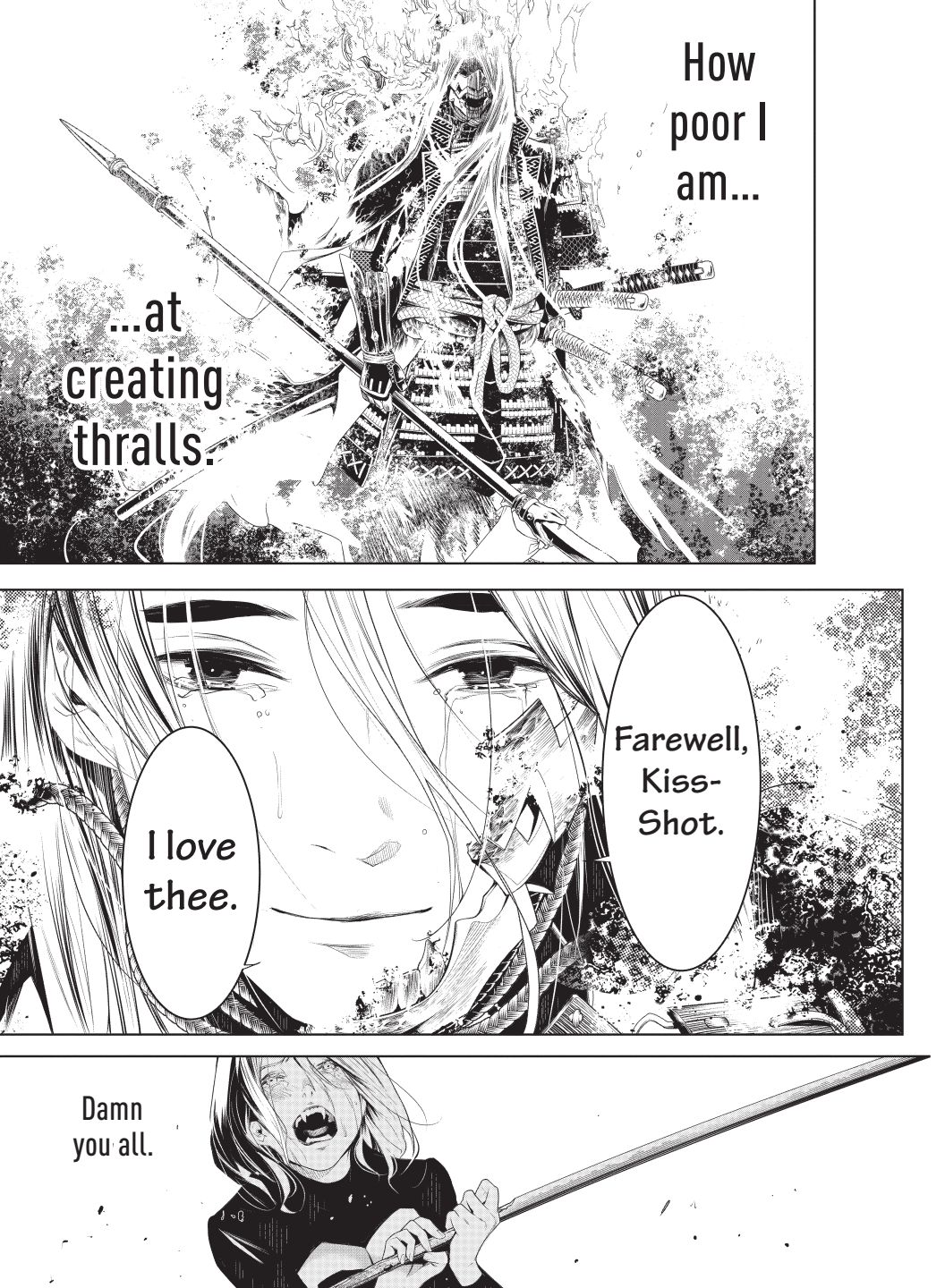

Back then...
...I went and saved Kiss-Shot.
And that's why...
...she's going to die for my sake...?

Then... I...

I...!



Hah.
DRIP
Aye.


How poor I am...
...at creating thralls.
Farewell, Kiss-Shot.
I love thee.
Damn you all.

GROOOAR
ゴォォッ
SKREEE
ギィィィィィィ…
How pitiful.
Such crybabies my servants are.

Continued in Volume 15

Next Volume Preview

BAKEMONOGATARI 16

Koyomi defeats Kiss-Shot and learns of her intentions.

But while she tries to go through with her revealed plan...

Come. Come
Come. Come
Come. Come
Come. Come
Come. Come
Come. Come
ome. Come-
kill me,
servant!!!

...Koyomi makes the cruelest of all decisions.
Koyomi Vamp wails.
I'm not helping you.
COMING JUNE 2022!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 14

Kodansha Digital Edition

BAKEMONOGATARI volume 14 copyright © 2021 NISIOISIN, Oh!great
English translation copyright © 2022 NISIOISIN, Oh!great

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2021 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

ISBN: 9781684912445

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Editing: Ajani Oloye
Translation: Ko Ransom
Production: Grace Lu
Shirley Fang
Hiroko Mizuno
Eve Grandt

kodansha.us